Race Day Reminders for Welcome Wave Families

Busey BANK ILLINOIS youth run

Saturday, April 24, 2027
(Cancellation date Sunday, April 25)
3:00 p.m., Gies Memorial Stadium
1402 S. First St., Champaign, IL

What is the Welcome Wave?

The Welcome Wave is a heat tailored for families and participants with disabilities. Participants in the Welcome Wave enjoy a fun race experience with additional support in the race environment and from our dedicated volunteers. This Welcome Wave heat will be the first wave of the Youth Run, immediately following the national anthem, minimizing wait time and the total duration of participation. A caregiver race bib is provided for each Welcome Wave participant. Grade restrictions do not apply to this heat. After the Welcome Wave, the remaining heats will go.

Getting inside Gies Memorial Stadium

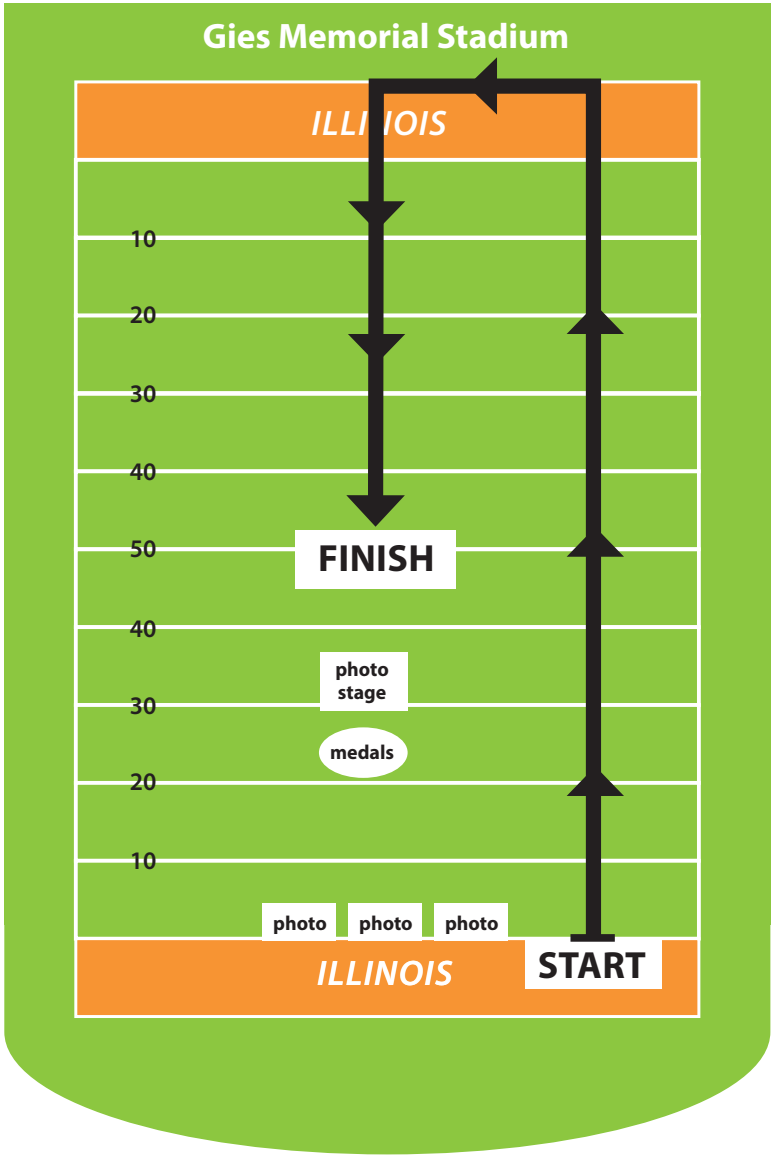
If entering Gies Memorial Stadium through the Great East Hall for the Youth Run doesn't work for a Welcome Wave family, they may enter through the Horseshoe tunnel on the south side of the stadium. A Youth Run Committee member will escort families through the tunnel into the stadium. Please be in the Stadium by 2:30 p.m.

Welcome Wave Route

The Welcome Wave heat is on the same course,, on the turf inside Gies Memorial Stadium. Running, walking, or rolling this heat in full or shortening this distance is welcomed! Please be aware that the surface material is artificial turf in planning for mobility. After you finish, if you are able ascend the stairs to the Great West Hall for postrace refreshments, do so. If accessing the Great West Hall doesn't work, we will have TO GO postrace food snack bags for your family.

Exiting Gies Memorial Stadium

Welcome Wave participants may exit the stadium from the Great West Hall or through the Horseshoe tunnel at the south end of the stadium. We will have to-go food bags for our Welcome Wave families.



Postrace food in the concession area of the Great West Hall

Gates #19, #21, #23

Staging entrance— volunteers will be at gates to direct/guide participants

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Official Youth Run Sponsor