



About the Chicago Half Marathon

The 16th annual Chicago Half Marathon & 5K takes place on Sunday, September 9, 2012! The 2011 event had over 17,500 participants and was our most successful event to-date. On September 9, athletes from all over the world will once again be hitting the streets of Chicago to take on this 13.1 mile challenge. The Chicago Half Marathon is a Chicago Tradition and a runner favorite.

“My first race of any kind. What an unbelievable experience! The crowd was awesome and kept me pumped up the last 3 miles. This was one of the most amazing days of my 51 year life. Can't wait to do it again.” – *Dennis Cooney*

“This 1/2 marathon was my 5th so far. It was my best race- the weather, the crowd, the people with signs, the volunteers, and Chicago itself! What an amazing day and race for me!” – *Jody Simpson*

This year's course for the Chicago Half Marathon & 5K is full of historical sites that put the windy city on the map. The start and finish line of the Chicago Half Marathon and 5K will be in Jackson Park, just south of the Museum of Science and Industry, a building featured in 1893 for the World Exposition as the palace of fine arts. Runners will then be treated to breathtaking views of the Chicago Skyline and Lake Michigan as they make their way to the finish line on Lake Shore Drive.

Each year more and more runners are coming out to experience this world class event, and we want to reward them for their loyalty. At the Chicago Half Marathon & 5K we continue to focus on runner's feedback to make sure we give our athletes exactly what they are looking for in an endurance race. The Chicago Half Marathon prides itself on being charity friendly. With our mind set on encouraging participants to finish, Chicago Half is proud to be a great “First Timer” half marathon.

5 Great Reasons to run the Chicago Half Marathon

1. Stellar on-course entertainment
2. Commemorative Technical T-shirt
3. Great course support
4. Beautiful Finisher's medal
5. Outstanding Post Race party in beautiful Jackson Park

Charity running: Where the dollar sign meets the finish line

Charity running has become an integral part of the Chicago Half Marathon, and we want to help continue your programs and the causes they support. Training for a half marathon is a challenge, and finding the right motivation is a great way to keep it fun and help athletes stay committed. Cause related endurance events have experienced tremendous growth. Charity training programs provide participants with support, professional coaching and inspiration. We want to help you find athletes that are looking to make that connection, by promoting your training programs. We encourage all of our interested participants to get into the spirit of charity racing and connect with a worthy cause that will inspire them to train for and complete a half marathon.

Fundraising Made Easy

There are a number of creative and functional ways you can make the fundraising effort tremendously successful for your charity. The most common and effective way is by setting up a fundraising pledge program where runners collect pledges and donations based on the completion of their race. As the charity, you would obtain the race entry on behalf of the individual (at a certain value), and the individual in turn raises a minimum of "X dollars" for your charity to be able to earn that entry to the half marathon. As an example, charities tend to ask for pledges ranging from a minimum of \$200 up to \$3,000. Depending on the minimum pledge, charities create packages that include travel arrangements (hotels, airfare, etc.), shirts, pre and post race meals, and training/coaching programs. Each charity has the option to develop a program according to your goals, resources and expected participants. We can help provide you with ideas and opportunities, but the implementation and collection of the fundraising program is up to the charity and its participants.

How do runners find out that a charity is affiliated with the Chicago Half Marathon?

Recruiting participants to fundraise is generally done through your communication channels and database of contacts. However, we will promote your charity through our website and direct interested runners to research our partner charities or those who support causes in which they may have a specific interest.

13 minute Pace Requirement!

The Chicago Half Marathon is the only race in Chicago that gets to close down Lake Shore Drive completely between 67th Street and 31st Street. It is one of the coolest things to be able to run on one of the Nation's most famous and scenic roads. By having the road completely closed it makes for a very safe race with no traffic buzzing by participants. This comes with a price; all participants must maintain a 13 minute per mile pace. This pace goes into effect as soon as the last participant crosses the start line which takes about 20 minutes. For any Charity Participant that cannot maintain the 13 minute pace they will be forced to the lakefront path in five different locations along Lake Shore Drive if they cannot meet cutoff time limits. Please see the map for these locations and times. The path will be completely supported with aid stations including water/Gatorade, restrooms, mile markers medical personal and course marshals directing the participants. The finish line will remain open for those on the path until 11:30am. We hope you will be able to train your participants to a 13 minute pace but for those who just cannot do it they have an option. Please make sure all your participants are fully aware of the pace and the rules.

Where can I find out more information about the charity program?

Please contact Linsey Bailys for more information about the charity program at 773.357.5467 or lbailys@usroadsports.com.