

OFFICIAL RACE PROGRAM



MESA
MARATHON

The background of the poster features a photograph of a marathon race. Runners are seen from behind, jogging on a paved road. In the distance, a range of red rock mountains is visible under a hazy sky. The foreground shows some desert vegetation, including cacti and mesquites.

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

WELCOME!

This year marks the 13th running of the Mesa Marathon, and we are thrilled to once again open the streets of Mesa for our runners. With a fast downhill grade, stunning desert views, and an unmatched, supportive racing community of all skill levels, the Mesa Marathon is an experience like no other. Thank you for joining us as we continue the rich tradition of this great race! Please take a moment to read the information in this Official Race Guide to ensure that you have the best experience possible.



ON YOUR MARK...

DOWNLOAD THE APP

Want some company while you run? Download the Mesa Marathon App and use our “Tour of Mesa” feature during the race to make sure you don’t miss out on anything along the course. With the app downloaded to your phone, you can listen to your own music as you run and the feature will kick in to tell you about the race as you pass certain points along the course. We’ll tell you about upcoming aid stations, turns, points of interest, and tips for tackling certain parts of the course. You’ll also hear your splits and updated pace information each time you pass a mile marker.

TRACKING & TIMING

Mesa Marathon deploys Laurel by Brooksee, the industry’s premier timing technology. Laurel delivers real-time tracking updates every mile for all participants. The races will be chip-timed using tags adhered to the back of your bib. Your time will begin

when you cross the start line, not at the start gun, so do not worry if you start near the back of the pack. It is important that you do not cover your bib with clothing or other objects that may interfere with the tag reader when you are crossing the start and finish lines.

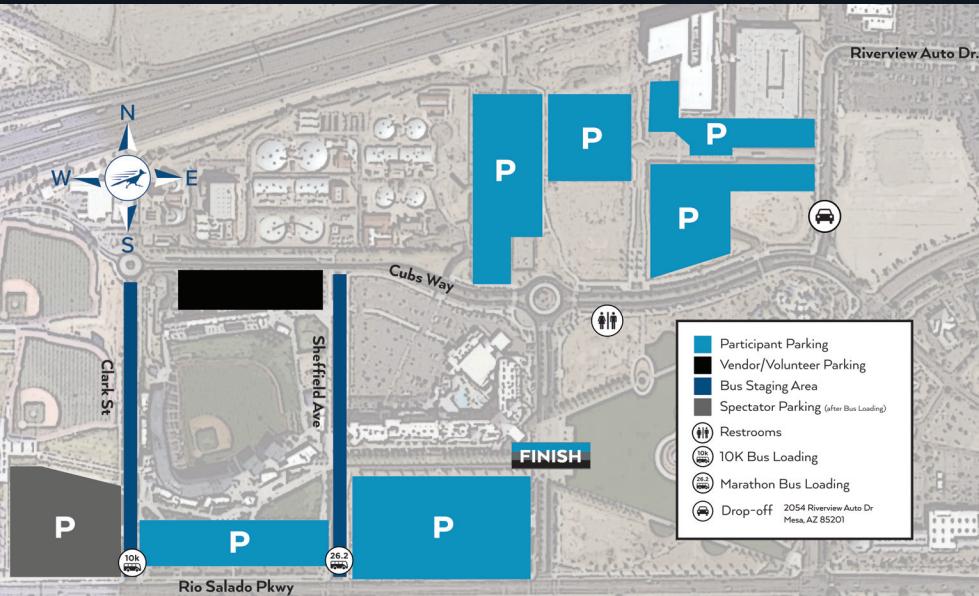
PARKING & ARRIVAL

Please take a moment to review the Parking Maps for this year’s Mesa Marathon. Unlike in past years, there are NO designated parking lots for the specific distances. ALL parking on the enclosed map is open to all participants and spectators in the Riverview Park area. These lots are highlighted on the enclosed map.

For the 2026 edition of the race, there are a few changes that we have made, specific to the half marathon. Please see below for details. All marathon and 10K runners must utilize the bus service provided by the race to arrive at the start lines. There is ample parking north of Riverview Park. NO parking is allowed at the Mesa Riverview Shopping Complex.

MESA MARATHON

PARKING & BUSING



RIDEShare DROP OFF/PICK UP
2054 Riverview Auto Drive, Mesa, AZ 85201

MARATHON RUNNERS

Marathon buses will depart from 4:00AM to 5:00AM near the Finish Line Festival area at Riverview Park. Marathon runners should arrive in the parking area no later than 4:30AM.

HALF MARATHON RUNNERS

All Half Marathon runners will be parking near the start line of the half marathon. **There is no busing of Half Marathon runners from Riverview Park.** Half Marathon runners are encouraged to arrive at the parking facility located at 3260 North 40th Street Mesa, AZ 85215 between

4:30AM and no later than 5:15AM. Please plan to carpool with other runners as much as possible in order to avoid long wait times and congestion in the parking area. It is a 15 minute walk from the parking facility to the half marathon staging area.

Half Marathon runners who are NOT parking but only being dropped off need to be dropped off at 4201 East Oasis St, Mesa, AZ 85215. This drop off location is just east of the half marathon staging area. This will put you in an area to avoid congestion. It is a 5 minute walk from the drop off location to the staging area.

When you have completed the race, there will be shuttles at the finish line, staged along Clark Street, to return you

MESA MARATHON

HALF MARATHON STAGING



to the parking facility. These shuttles will run from 8:00AM-11:30AM.

Please reference the map above to see where the new parking facility and drop off area are located for the half marathon.

To repeat: **THERE IS NO BUSING OF HALF MARATHON RUNNERS FROM RIVIEWER PARK. HALF MARATHON RUNNERS MUST GET THEMSELVES TO THE START LINE EITHER THROUGH PARKING OR DROP OFF.**

10K RUNNERS

10K buses will depart from 4:45AM to 5:45AM from the southwest corner of Sloan Park at the intersection of Clark Street and Rio Salado Parkway.

...GET SET...



PRE-RACE AREA

Abundant portable restrooms, water, and Skratch Labs Hydration will be available in the start line staging areas. Heaters will also be present to keep runners warm before the race. After arriving at the start line staging area, Marathon runners will be allowed to stay on their buses if they choose. However, Half Marathon and 10K runners must exit their buses upon arrival and bring all of their belongings with them.

GEAR CHECK

Each start line staging area will have a gear check service available. Before checking their bags, runners should ensure that the bib tear tag that was placed on the handle of their bag during Packet Pickup is still attached to the bag. After the race runners must present their race bib at the gear pickup area and volunteers will retrieve the bag with the matching number. The gear pickup will be located just north of the finish festival on the other side of Cubs Way.

All gear should be checked no later than 6:10AM. It is recommended that extra clothing be removed prior to race start and placed in the gear bags. Any clothing that is left in the general staging area or anywhere along the route will be collected and donated to charity. Please do not leave valuable items such as phones, wallets, or car keys in checked bags. The Mesa Marathon will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.



PACING

Pacers will be lined up in the start chutes next to the large pace markers. They will be holding elevated pace signs to mark their location.

Pace groups will be as follows:

MARATHON

2:55	6:40/mile pace
3:00	6:52/mile pace
3:05	7:03/mile pace
3:15	7:26/mile pace
3:20	7:37/mile pace
3:25	7:49/mile pace
3:30	8:00/mile pace
3:35	8:12/mile pace
3:45	8:35/mile pace
3:50	8:46/mile pace
4:00	9:09/mile pace
4:05	9:20/mile pace
4:20	9:54/mile pace
4:40	10:41/mile pace
5:00	11:27/mile pace
5:30	12:35/mile pace
6:00	13:44/mile pace

HALF MARATHON

1:25	6:29/mile pace
1:30	6:52/mile pace
1:40	7:38/mile pace
1:45	8:00/mile pace
1:50	8:24/mile pace
2:00	9:09/mile pace
2:10	9:55/mile pace
2:20	10:41/mile pace



GO!

START CHUTE

Runners will be directed to line up in the start chutes beginning at 6:10AM.

Marathon runners will line up on N Ellsworth Rd. Faster pace groups will stage closest to the start line near Gun Range Rd, and slower pace groups will stage farther north towards the bus parking area.

Labs Hydration first and water second. Certain aid stations will also be supplied with Crank Sports E-Gels and other amenities. Refer to the Aid Station Map for details on exact locations and amenities at each aid station.

Half Marathon runners will line up on E McDowell Rd just west of N Norwalk. Faster pace groups will stage closer to the start line near Norwalk, and slower pace groups will stage farther east towards N Omaha.

10K runners will line up on E 8th St immediately north of the baseball diamonds. Faster pace groups will stage on the east side of the chute closer to the start line, and slower pace groups will stage farther west towards Center St.

Large markers denoting various paces will line each start chute and runners will be directed to queue in the zone which marks their expected pace.

All three races will begin at 6:30AM.
There will not be waves or fixed corrals.

AID STATIONS

PRESENTED BY: **BIG BRAND**
TIRE & SERVICE

There are 13 aid stations along the marathon course, 7 aid stations along the half marathon course and 4 aid stations along the 10k course. All aid stations will be supplied with Lemon Lime Skratch Labs Hydration, water portable restrooms, Biofreeze, and first aid. When passing an aid station, runners will always be offered Skratch Labs Hydration first and water second. Certain aid stations will also be supplied with Crank Sports E-Gels and other amenities. Refer to the Aid Station Map for details on exact locations and amenities at each aid station.

In an effort to contain waste and facilitate cleanup operations, runners are asked to discard trash and shed clothing as close as possible to an aid station rather than elsewhere along the course. Any clothing that is shed along the course or at an aid station will be collected and donated to charity.



M E S A M A R A T H O N

COURSE & AID STATION MAP



MEDICAL & SAFETY

There will be ambulances staged at various points along the route to service emergency medical needs. Additionally, each aid station will be equipped with first aid supplies and medical kits. When possible, runners experiencing non-emergency medical needs should continue to an aid station and check in with the aid station director stationed there. If necessary, a SAG vehicle will be dispatched to retrieve the runner and transport them to the Finish Festival. If it is not possible to continue on to an aid station, runners should check in with the nearest volunteer course marshal or police officer at any intersection.

A large medical area will be established at the Finish Festival with trained medical personnel from Mesa Fire and HonorHealth. The medical tent in this area will have basic equipment and supplies. Runners with non-critical needs will be able to use the HonorHealth x ROC Physical Therapy tent just outside the runner services area.

There are sections of the course where runners must remain within certain lanes to allow traffic to flow in adjacent lanes. These areas will be marked with cones and runners must always stay within the indicated lane when cones are present. Please follow the directions of volunteer course marshals and law enforcement officers at all times.

CUT OFF TIMES

Marathon runners must maintain the minimum required pace of 15:00 minutes per mile, or four miles per hour. The clock for the cut-off pace will begin when the last runner crosses the start line, rather than at 6:30 when the race begins. Runners who fall behind the minimum required pace must either consent to be picked up by a Mesa Marathon x Valley Toyota Dealers branded Toyota Sienna, or continue the race by moving to the sidewalk or shoulder and continuing as a pedestrian. Those who elect to continue as pedestrians must adhere to all regular traffic laws and are not guaranteed support at aid stations. They should also memorize the route,

as traffic control assets and directional signage will be removed promptly following the cut-off time. They will still be eligible to receive a finisher's medal. Half marathon runners must maintain the minimum required pace of 30:00 minutes per mile, or two miles per hour.

SPECTATORS

Spectators should always be respectful of private property and not utilize non-public parking at residences or businesses. Those spectating in residential areas should be extremely considerate of noise levels, particularly during the early morning hours.

Confetti cannons are NOT permitted. Any use will result in a \$500 fine and removal from the event.



YOU DID IT!

FINISH FESTIVAL



We are excited to be finishing, again, at beautiful Riverview Park. Immediately after crossing the finish line, runners will find themselves in an enclosed Runner Services area where they will receive water, chocolate milk, Skratch Hydration & Recovery, chips & cookies provided by Siete Foods, and fruit. Spectators will not be permitted to enter this area and should plan to meet up with their runners in the festival area north and east of the finish line on the grass. Once runners exit Runner Services they will not be allowed re-entry. They should ensure that they have collected their medal and recovery items before exiting.

Mesa Marathon finishers who also completed the Phoenix Marathon in December 2025 are eligible to receive the Desert Double Medal. If you are eligible, this will be indicated directly on your race bib.



After completing your race, head to the Desert Double Pick-Up Tent, located adjacent to the Results Tent, to collect your medal. Be sure to celebrate your accomplishment and stop by the Desert Double photo op next to the tent to capture the moment.

Don't forget to tag [@mesamarathon](#) for a chance to be reposted!

Runners will be able to collect their free post-race treats by removing the tear tags along the bottom of their bibs. Runners can receive a sweet treat and their choice of a Michelob Ultra beer or an Athletic Brewing NA beer. Beer will be available in the beer garden at the finish festival and the sweet treat will be in Runner's Services.

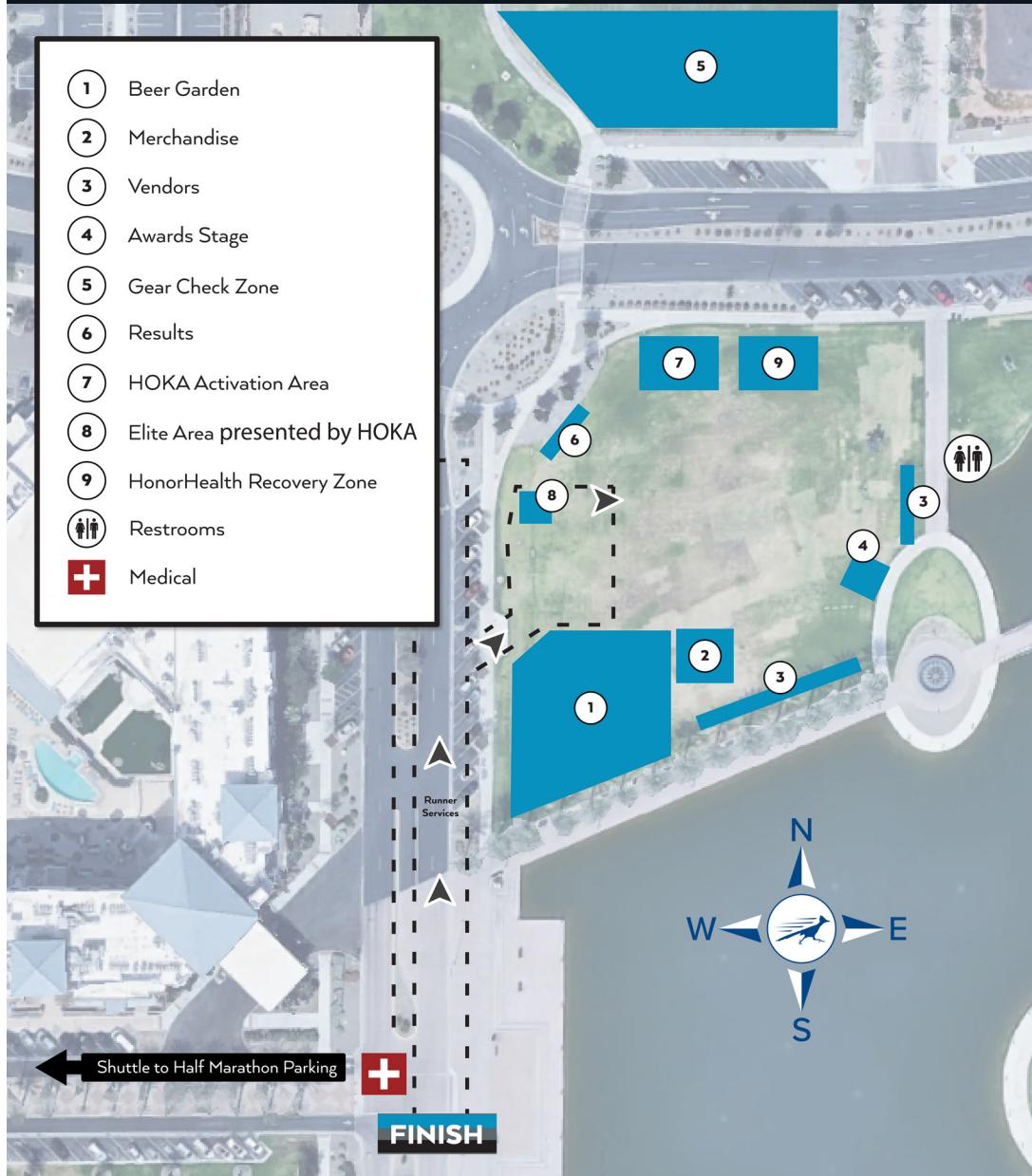
PHOTOS & RESULTS

Approximately 3-4 days following the race runners will receive an email to notify them that their race photos are ready. The email will contain a link to view and purchase their photos.

A results tent will be set up near the exit of the Runner Services area. Runners may visit this tent and present their race bib to receive a free result card. Results will also be available on the Photos/Results page of the Phoenix Marathon website as soon as runners cross the finish line.

Awards ceremonies for overall winners will take place near the DJ at the Finish Festival. The 10K awards ceremony will occur at 8:30am; the Half Marathon awards ceremony will occur at 9:00am; the Marathon awards ceremony will occur at 10:00am.

MESA MARATHON FINISH VENUE MAP



SPONSORS



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FLYING

U.S. ARMY

**GRAND CANYON
LAW GROUP**

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