

9th Annual Hokie Half Marathon and 5K

The Running Club at Virginia Tech, The Virginia Tech Triathlon Club, RunAbout Sports, and the Blacksburg Striders are very excited that this weekend has finally come. We hope you are as excited as we are about the 9th Annual Hokie Half Marathon and 5K.

We have many attempting their first half marathon or 5K. This is the eighth year of the event and one virtual year. We hope we make it special for you. Our team has put everything into this event and we hope it shows.

- James DeMarco, Hokie Half Marathon and 5K Race Director

VIRTUAL RUNNERS: Virtual runners have from September 25th to October 10th to turn in their proof of performance. Please email to RunAboutSports@gmail.com. A photo of your garmin, strava, map my run, etc will be needed to confirm finish. Virtual results will be listed but in a virtual category. If you don't mind sharing a picture of you running or after you finish, we would love to share with our Facebook Hokie Half Marathon and 5K group on Facebook. Thank you! We will ship out your gear once we receive your results, with the first shipments on Monday, October 5th.

The schedule of events for the In-person race:

SATURDAY – Packet Pick-up location (NOT high school)

- **Packet Pick-up** is at University Mall (801 University City Blvd, Blacksburg) from noon to 8pm. There will be plenty of signs leading to registration. There will be vendors there selling products so if you need any last minute items you will be able to get them there.
- Please have your ID ready, and if picking up a friend's – have a picture of their ID.
- If you still need to register you can register at Packet Pickup. There is no race day registration.

SUNDAY

Masks – If riding the shuttle buses we ask that you wear a mask, even if fully vaccinated. We make this little sacrifice to protect others. We also ask at the start line, since that is the one area where we will have a lot of people in very close proximity and waiting for the start, to have a mask on. Once you cross the start line, the masks can come off. There will also be trash cans to toss your mask in, if you wish not to carry it. They will be spread out for about 50 meters after the start line.

We really appreciate your help with this. We will not be forcing people to wear a mask on the bus or at the start line, but ask for your cooperation. Once you finish, and this includes spectators – you do not need to wear a mask since the finish area has plenty of space to spread out and cheer on the runners. It is only for the 8 minute bus ride and when in the corral area awaiting the start. THANK YOU!

Parking

5:20a.m. – Charter buses start running their routes to the start and finish from lower Chicken Hill lot (across from Lane Stadium). They will run continuous loops until 12 noon. All spectators should park at the Chicken Hill lot and ride the bus. It takes less than 8 minutes for the shuttle.

5:30a.m. – Parking lots in area A (Corporate Research Center and where the start and finish are) are open for parking. If coming from Research Center Drive (off of 460) please take a left at Kraft and follow the parking attendants. Those coming up Tech Center Drive off of Innovation, please take a right at Pratt Drive and follow the parking attendants.

Spectators parking for start and finish- All spectators should park at the Chicken Hill lot and ride the bus. It takes less than 8 minutes for the shuttle. If parking after 9:00am you may try and park at the VT Corporate Research Center. We suggest coming in off of Innovation and Research Center Drive. ** The half marathoners run right by Parking Lot B – about nine miles in they go up Chicken Hill. A great place to cheer and then load the shuttles to catch the finish line.

Weather – Sunday high of 76 degrees and 60 for the low. 20% chance of rain at this time. Most of the race will be low 60's.

Dropping off a Runner

Drop off parking is at the VT airport. Drive up Research Center Drive off of Innovation or take Research Center Road off of Main or 460. When you get to the VT Airport follow the signs posted and parking attendants.

Bag Drop Off

To the right of the finish line will be an area to drop off your bag. Look for the sign. There will be label tags on which to write your bib number and then hand it to one of the VT Corp of Cadets. We do not want any bags unattended, and any bags left unattended can and will be searched by police.

Schedule of Races

7:10am – Announcements given

7:15am – National Anthem

7:18am – Head to start line (start line is a 8 min walk from finish line)

7:28am - Wave One in position

7:30am – Hokie Half Marathon STARTS!

7:28am – 5K runners move to the start line (next to finish line)

8:00am – 5K Race starts

11:30am – Course Closes

12:00pm – Last bus leaves for Chicken Hill parking lot (Lot B)

Half Marathon Start Line – Due to the Huckleberry Trail changes the start has been moved compared to previous years. The start is on Kraft Road but now close to the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). It is close to a half mile away or an 8 minute walk. Runners are asked to hang out by the finish (where the vast majority of the porta potties are located, music, bag drop off and announcements take place. After the national anthem we will have the half

marathoners walk or jog to the start. The race will start at 7:30am – giving participants 14 minutes to walk to the start.

5K Start Line – The start line has also changed but is right next to the finish line.

Finish Line – The finish line is the same for the half marathon and 5K. It is by the VT Airport off of Kraft and Research Center Drive.

Course directions – Every mile will be marked. Road marshals and police are also on the course and are at every intersection. Posted signs and cones will be used for course directions along with marshals pointing runners in the correct direction.

Chip Instructions – To ensure we can provide you with an accurate finish time, please follow these instructions.

- Your bib must be worn on the front of your body preferably at chest height.
- Please avoid wearing the bib on the side of your shorts or the back of your shirt to ensure your chip is picked up by the sensors.
- Your bib must be worn on your outermost layer (Cannot be covered).
- Do not bend, crinkle or remove the timing chip on your bib.

Results – Results will be posted live at www.runroanoke.com and final results will also be there and on www.hokiehalf.com.

- If you are not listed on the preliminary results please send the following information to runroanoke@gmail.com
 - Name, Bib Number, Estimated Finish Time

Porta Johns on Course - There are 38 porta johns at the finish where the buses drop runners off. We will have five by the start area and another 12 on the course. There will be signs on the course letting you know porta johns are coming up. They are located at 3.2 miles, 5 miles, 8.5 miles, and 11 miles.

Music – We have a band playing at the finish and music acts along the course to help inspire you to the finish. There are seven musical acts and a DJ.

Aid Stations – There are six aid stations providing water and Gatorade. They are at mile markers: 3.1, 5, 7.25, 8.5, 9.5, and 11. At Mile marker 7.25 (aid station three) they will give out GU. The Gu is Salted Watermelon (20mg caffeine) and Camp Fire Smores (no caffeine). We moved the two mile rest station to 8.5 miles since there wasn't a big demand that early in the race.

First Aid – There will be an ambulance crew at the finish. There will be three ATV EMS units on the Huckleberry Trail. Riding with the half marathon and the 5K will be two EMS responders on bikes (six total). There will be three ambulance crews along the course. All water stations have a first aid kit and petroleum jelly (Vaseline).

Safety is our first priority and we are fortunate to have Blacksburg Police, Montgomery County Sheriff Department, Virginia Tech Police and Christiansburg Police all working the event along with the Rescue Squads from Blacksburg, Virginia Tech and Christiansburg. That being said, if a driver is not paying attention please do not assume they will stop. Please be aware of your surroundings and protect yourself.

Finish Line – We will have live music, Hokie Chili (Turkey) and vegetarian chili, plus fruits, chocolate, bagels, water and soda. The food is only for the 5K and half marathon participants, plus volunteers.

Need a Ride? – If your body is not doing well (not an emergency) and you need to stop, we can come pick you up. Just ask any of the road marshals or aid/ water stations and they will call our team of drivers to come get you.

HokieBird – The HokieBird will be at the finish for pictures and to encourage you to finish strong! 9am to 11am.

Awards – 5K Awards will be given at 9:15am behind the Announcing area (Finish Line). Half Marathon awards (prize money) will be given out to the overall winners after their races. Age group awards will be given out at 10:00am. If there are any timing issues and we need to review the finish line cameras we will mail awards. Announcements will be made. You do not need to be present to get your age group award. We will mail those not picked up.

Customize your medal – New River Engraving can customize your medal. Call them at 540-382-0232. Check out what it would look like here:
<http://www.newriverengraving.com/product/hokie-half-marathon-plates/>

Swag – If you registered as a no frills half marathoner you do not receive a participant shirt or finisher shirt. You do receive the finisher medal and finisher magnet. PLEASE do not take the finisher shirt if a volunteer accidently gives you one as it will cause shortages for those who paid for one. Maroon bibs get the ½ marathon shirts and medal. Orange bibs in the 5K receive a 5K finisher medal.

Hokie Half course map is located at <http://hokiehalf.com/hokie-half-marathon/>

Hokie 5K course map is at <http://hokiehalf.com/hokie-5k/>

Pictures: We will have two photographers and will upload those pictures to the Facebook site. They are free.

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Thank you to our sponsors! Skip Slocum of Nest Realty, RunAbout Sports, Blacksburg Physical Therapy, Carilion Clinic, Spectrum Brands, Clarity Eye Care, VPT, inc., and Iron for Zion. We appreciate your support!

Proceeds from the Hokie Half Marathon and 5K will go to the following charities and groups. VT Running Club, VT Triathlon Club, Micah's Backpack, Pulaski H.S. XC Team, Our House, Blacksburg XC, Christiansburg XC Team and High School Band, Volunteers for Literacy of the New River Valley, Haiti Mission Trip and if enough proceeds the Blacksburg and Christiansburg Volunteer Rescue Squads.

Special Thanks to the VT Corp of Cadets, Blacksburg Police, Montgomery County Sheriff Department, Virginia Tech Police and Christiansburg Police all working the event along with the Rescue Squads from Blacksburg, Virginia Tech and Christiansburg.

Thank you once again, Safe Travels and Good Luck!!!