

SPECTATORS' GUIDE



lululemon

The lululemon Classic City Marathon,
Athena Half-Marathon, & Classic City Marathon Relay



Sunday, January 28th, 2024

If the answer to your question is not in this Spectators' Guide or in the Participants' Guide, please check our [Facebook Page](#) or post your question there (en ingles o en español; todas las corredoras son bienvenidas/bienvenidos) so we can answer for everyone.

The lululemon Classic City Marathon has incorporated environmentally and socially responsible practices into the planning and execution of our races. Join us in these efforts on race weekend! Look for the laurel wreath in this guide to find out how.



WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE?

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE	3
PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP TO ATHENS	4
PACKET PICK-UP & EXPO	7
IT'S RACE DAY!	8
Key Details	8
The Start Of The Race	8
Getting To The Starting Line	9
During The Race	10
Course Maps	11
After The Race	13
Awards Presentations & Pick-Up.....	14
HEALTH & SAFETY FOR EVERYONE	15
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!	17

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2024

12PM - 6PM

EXPO & PACKET PICK-UP

Creature Comforts Taproom and Brewery
271 West Hancock Avenue

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2024

6AM

Gear check opens at the Classic Center

7:30AM

MARATHON, HALF-MARATHON & MARATHON RELAY

130 West Hancock Avenue
Between Lumpkin Street and Hull Street

9:30AM - 12:30PM

AWARD PRESENTATIONS & AWARD PICK-UP

Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area
Grand Ballroom 8 of the Classic Center

9:30AM

PRESENTATION OF OVERALL AWARDS FOR THE HALF-MARATHON

12PM

PRESENTATION OF OVERALL AWARDS FOR THE MARATHON AND MARATHON RELAY

AGE GROUP AWARDS (top 3 finishers in 5-year age groups, for individual runners) can be picked up at the awards table after overall winners have been verified

1:30PM

The marathon course will be fully supported until 1:30pm

2:30PM

The finish line will be fully supported until 2:30pm

Athens is in the Eastern time zone.

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP TO ATHENS

Pack for the weather, and pack so your runner will see you.

- Watch the weather forecast before race day. Temperatures will probably be in the mid 40s Fahrenheit.
- We are “rain or shine” races, unless a genuine ice storm interferes! Bring an umbrella if rain is forecast.
- Bring your brightest or most distinctive coat and hat so your runner can spot you in the crowd.
- Bring comfortable walking shoes and warm gloves.
- If you don't mind carrying it, consider a camping chair.



Bring your own coffee mug with you to reduce the number of paper cups we have to throw away during the weekend.

Prepare to cheer for your runner – and for all runners!

- Bring everything you need to make some noise! Cowbells and pom-poms help to boost tired runners' spirits without ruining your voice. Do you play trumpet, tuba, or tambourine? Bring it along!
- Make big silly signs ahead of time and don't forget to bring them with you!
 - “All this work for half a banana?”
 - “If it were easy, I'd be out there!”
 - “Keep going! You're doing it!”
- Bring your Bluetooth speaker and make an energetic playlist for the crowd and for the runners!

Prepare to track your favorite runners.



- Download the **RaceJoy** app from Google Play or the Apple app store. Add the Classic City Marathon as one of your races, and coordinate carefully with your runner(s). This will allow you to track any individual runner(s) in real time as they progress along the course.
- Use **Participant Tracking** from the Run Sign Up website to request automatic notifications as any individual runner(s) pass timing points along the course.

Spend some time before race day with the course maps.

- Will you start early, or are you committed to cheering for every last marathoner in the early afternoon? Will you try to see your runner more than once?
- Early-morning observation points include Prince Avenue (for all races) and the neighborhood streets near Belvoir Heights (for the marathon and marathon relay only). Runners will also return to Prince Avenue throughout the morning and into the afternoon as they near the end of their races.
- The 3rd and 4th miles of the half-marathon, and the 10th and 16th miles of the marathon, all use Dudley Park. Two chances to see your marathoner here!
- River Road, East Campus Road, and Milledge Avenue (from East Campus through Five Points to Cobb Street) will showcase all runners, from the fastest half-marathoners by about 8:10am to the most determined marathoners and marathon relay participants in the early afternoon.
- If you will be watching for a particular runner, look at the course maps with them. Use their best-case estimate of their fastest possible pace to help you decide where to be and when, so you don't arrive too late and miss them.
- See all the information about Race Day and Cheer Zones, too!

Plan ahead for the complexities of the marathon relay.

- The marathon relay divides the course into four legs or sections of approximately 6.5 miles each. If you are watching for a particular marathon relay runner, make sure you know how their team will divide the legs of the relay.
- Some relay runners will have reserved a shuttle that will take them between the starting line, the three relay exchange points on the course, and the finish line. But be ready! If you are supporting a relay runner, their team might ask you to be their private relay team shuttle driver to get each of them out to, or back in from, their relay exchange points. Spend some time planning with the course maps before race weekend.
- The relay runners' shuttles do not have room for spectators. Please do not plan to use the runners' shuttle to move between the relay exchange points.

Plan for everyone's needs.

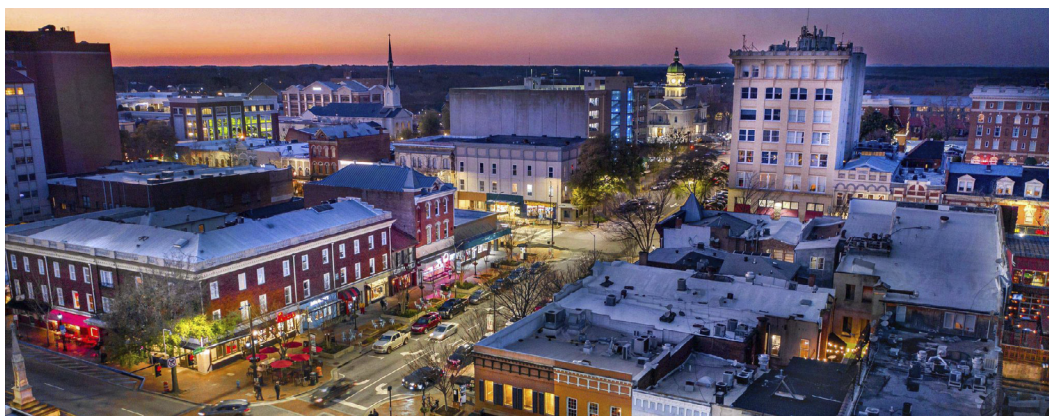
- Children are welcome to come cheer and enjoy the family-oriented activities in the Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area at the Classic Center near the finish line, but definitely plan ahead for young children's needs.
- Be aware of how far spectators will need to walk. If you are considering the stroller or the wagon, bring it.
- If you will be responsible for young children during the race, you might want to bring extra snacks, drinks, toys, creativity, and flexibility.
- Depending on how long your runner expects to be on the course, consider letting your runner start alone and planning to meet them at the Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area later in the day, instead of expecting children to wait through the entire race.

Plan for pets' needs.

- Leashed dogs are allowed on Athens' public streets, but pets are often overwhelmed by the crowds and the noise at large races. Consider arranging a pet-sitter at home instead of bringing your dog on race day.
- If you do bring a dog, be aware that Athens-Clarke County ordinances require animals to be leashed; prohibit animals from being on, or relieving themselves on, any private property other than the animal owner's property; prohibit animals from menacing other persons; and require pet owners to pick up any dog waste immediately. Bring a short leash and bring extra "doggie bags."
- Dogs are not allowed on the race courses.

We want everyone to enjoy being in downtown Athens or elsewhere along the course! Please [contact the Classic City Marathon Association](#) if you have any questions about observing our races as a person whose abilities in vision, hearing, mobility, neurosensitivity, or any other realm might differ from those of other people, or if you need assistance with planning for the special medical or other needs of a loved one for race day.

Si necesita información en español, [envíe un correo electrónico a nuestro embajador de carrera que habla español.](#)



Make sure your runners have the separate Classic City Marathon Participants' Guide. It is full of important information for runners!

PACKET PICK-UP AND EXPO

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 12PM-6PM
CREATURE COMFORTS TAPROOM AND BREWERY
271 WEST HANCOCK AVENUE**

All race bibs MUST be picked up between 12pm and 6pm Eastern Standard Time on Saturday, January 27th at the Classic City Marathon Expo.

Your runner must attend the Expo or arrange for someone else to pick up their bib. Picking up their race number on race morning is not an option for these races.

Spectators, family, children, and friends are welcome at the Expo! Creature Comforts has a large family-friendly enclosed patio, and there will be great vendors, activities, and entertainment. Last-minute registration will also be available at the Expo if the races have not sold out.

Explore the walkable blocks of downtown Athens on foot after your runner picks up their bib. You could [find the starting line](#), or go further and [find the Classic Center](#) (site of the pre-race Gear Check, indoor restrooms, and finish line). The [Athens Music Walk of Fame](#) covers some of the same blocks!

Athens also boasts a wide range of [downtown restaurants](#) for the perfect pre-race lunch or dinner.

Walk to the Expo from the Classic City Marathon partner hotels:

- [Hilton Garden Inn to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.5 miles
- [Hotel Indigo to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.4 miles
- [Springhill Suites to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.3 miles

[Park for the Expo](#) in metered street parking or in city parking decks (both decks are between the Expo and the Classic Center)

- [Washington Street Deck to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.3 miles
- [College Avenue Deck to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.35 miles



Sustainability at the Expo

- Our race shirts were made using Oeko-Tex® eco-friendly dyes, which are recycled within a semi-closed loop 7-10x water-saving system. These shirts are also PFAS chemical-free and made in the USA (including being knit, dyed, cut, sewn, packed and shipped within 20 miles of Athens!).
- The Expo venue, Creature Comforts Brewery, is a certified [B Corporation](#), committed to community development, transparency, and accountability.
- Recycling and composting will be available at the Expo.
- Expo vendors who have signed a green pledge will be marked with a wreath. Watch for them!

IT'S RACE DAY!

KEY DETAILS

- Starting Line is at 130 West Hancock Avenue
- Corrals A-D will stretch west on Hancock Avenue toward Hull Street
- Gear Check and Indoor Bathrooms are located at the Classic Center, at the eastern end of Hancock Avenue and about 0.5 miles from the Starting Line
- All races start at 7:30am
- Finish Line is at the corner of East Dougherty Street and Foundry Street at the north end of the Classic Center
- Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area is in Grand Ballroom 8 inside the Classic Center.
- Spectators are welcome inside the Classic Center throughout the day

THE START OF THE RACE

Your runner will need to arrive to downtown Athens by 7am and be in their starting corral by 7:20am. **All races start together at 7:30am**, with only brief holds between waves. Spectators are welcome in the downtown area but cannot enter the starting corrals with runners.



*Compost and recycling bins will be positioned at the entrances to the starting line corrals. Please place **food waste** (banana peels, etc) in the **compost bin** and plastic **water bottles** in the **recycle bin** instead of using trash bins for these items. Thank you for helping to reduce the amount of waste we will have to send to the landfill!*

GETTING TO THE STARTING LINE

WALK TO THE STARTING LINE

All lululemon Classic City Marathon partner hotels are in downtown Athens, an easy walk from the starting line.

- [Hilton Garden Inn to Starting Line](#): ~0.33 miles
- [Hotel Indigo to Starting Line](#): ~0.25 miles
- [Springhill Suites by Marriott to Starting Line](#): ~0.35 miles

Walking Back to your Hotel: All lululemon Classic City Marathon and Athena Half-Marathon partner hotels are also an easy walk from the finish line at the Classic Center.

- [Classic Center to Hilton Garden Inn](#): Less than 0.1 miles
- [Classic Center to Hotel Indigo](#): ~.3 miles
- [Classic Center to Springhill Suites by Marriott](#): ~0.6 miles

DROPPING OFF A RUNNER

- If you are driving from the west to drop off a runner for the race, consider using the 200 block of East Clayton Street, near Classic City Cycling.
- If you are driving from the east to drop off a runner for the race, consider using Baldwin Street, South Lumpkin Street, or the upper entrance of the Founders Memorial Garden on Bocock Street to avoid the people who are trying to park downtown.

PARKING FOR THE RACE

If you will be parking in downtown Athens on race morning, be aware that streets may still be closed for other runners when you are trying to leave.

- Consider parking in the [Classic Center Parking Deck](#) (enter from Foundry Street, not Thomas Street, on race day).
- Consider a University of Georgia campus lot or parking deck (read carefully about [which lots require payments](#) on Sundays).
- Do not park in any church parking lot. It's Sunday! They will need their parking spaces.

We suggest staying in one of our [partner hotels in downtown Athens](#). If you are not staying downtown, we suggest that runners should arrive to the downtown Athens area by 7am. The Classic Center is about 0.5 miles from the Starting Line and will be a good place to stay warm. The Classic Center has plenty of indoor restrooms and is also the site of Gear Check and the Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area (both in Grand Ballroom 8; signage will be posted).

BATHROOMS AND PORT-A-POTTIES

- Indoor restrooms will be available before and during the race at the Classic Center (at the eastern end of Hancock Avenue or Washington Street).
- Port-a-potties at the starting line are for runners only, until all runners have left the starting line.

DURING THE RACE

CHEER FOR EVERYONE!

Thanks for being here to support all of our runners! If you are trying to see your favorite runner go by at a pre-arranged place, be there early and also be patient. Runners often surprise themselves by going more quickly than expected early in the race, and marathoners often slow down later in their races. Cheer for everyone you see while you wait!

WHERE TO WATCH

Spectators are more than welcome on any public land anywhere along the course. Find your spot and cheer for all the runners.

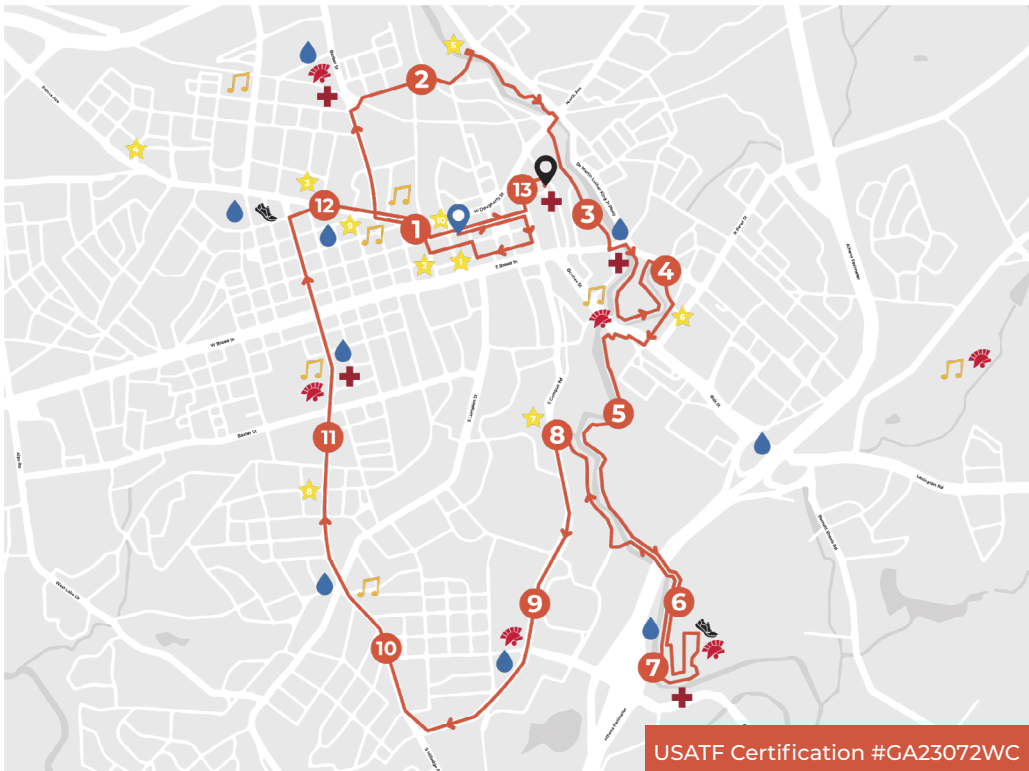
- Early-morning observation points include Prince Avenue (for all races) and the neighborhood streets near Belvoir Heights (for the marathon and marathon relay only). Runners will also return to Prince Avenue throughout the morning and into the afternoon as they near the end of their races.
- The 3rd and 4th miles of the half-marathon, and the 10th and 16th miles of the marathon, all use Dudley Park. Two chances to see your marathoner here!
- East Campus Road (from the University of Georgia Stadium at River Road South almost all the way to the intersection of East Campus Road and Milledge Avenue) will showcase all runners, from the fastest half-marathoners by about 8:10am to the most determined marathoners and marathon relay participants between 12:15-12:45pm.
- Runners will also appreciate everyone's enthusiastic support along Milledge Avenue, from Milledge Avenue Baptist Church through Five Points and all the way up to Cobb Street, between approximately 10am and 1pm as they complete the last few miles of their race.

COURSE MAPS

MARATHON



HALF-MARATHON



CHEER ZONES

Spectators can enjoy five specially designated **Cheer Zones** along the course. These Cheer Zones are located at key places for runners, some of which include exchange points for the marathon relay. Cheer Zones were designed with spectators in mind! **Parking should be plentiful near the Cheer Zones, and coffee and snacks for spectators will be provided.**

SPECIALLY DESIGNATED CHEER ZONES FOR SPECTATORS ARE IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- **Bishop Park:** Marathoners and first-leg relay runners will pass Bishop Park on Sunset Avenue between 7:30-8:30am.
- **Dudley Park:** Spectators in Dudley Park can watch marathoners, half-marathoners, second-leg relay runners, and third-leg relay runners! Runners completing the entire course will be visible in Dudley Park for an extended time or more than once each, using loops or out-and-back portions of the course, throughout the morning.
- **Firefly Trail / Winterville Road, near New Urban Forestry:** Marathoners and second-leg relay runners will pass this area on their way out, between 8:30-10:30am. Marathoners will be back, and third-leg relay runners will come through on their way in, between 9-11am.
- **The University of Georgia E23 Park and Ride Lot (at the North Oconee Access Road, from College Station Road):** Marathoners, half-marathoners, third-leg relay runners, and fourth-leg relay runners will all be visible in the UGA Park and Ride Cheer Zone, between 8am-12pm.
- **University of Georgia Intramural Fields (at the intersection of East Campus Road and College Station Road):** Marathoners, half-marathoners, and fourth-leg relay runners will pass this final Cheer Zone beginning at about 8:15am, throughout the morning, and into the early afternoon.

DRIVING DURING THE RACE

Spectators, please use the [course maps](#) to plan your driving routes and parking plans carefully! Be aware that roads will be closed for runners on a rolling schedule, beginning earlier in the morning in some areas and extending through the early afternoon for the later parts of the courses. Allow yourself extra time, if you are trying to move between spots during the race, or plan a way to park at a bit of a distance and walk to where you want to be.

TRACK YOUR RUNNER



- Use RaceJoy to track your runner(s) during the race (set this up before the race begins).
- You can also arrange to [receive automatic texts](#) about runners' progress on the course.

FOOD, DRINK, & RESTROOMS

Many Athens businesses will be open and ready to serve you during the race, including in the downtown area, in the Five Points area, and around the RaceTrac on Oconee Street (the [course maps](#) can help.) The Classic Center will be open throughout all races.



Sustainable, Re-usable Cups at the Runners' Water Stops

You will see tables with cups of water and PowerAde for the runners along the race routes. These water stops use sustainable, washable, re-usable cups from Hiccup's. The cups are durable, but are not souvenirs; please don't take the cups home! If you find a cup on the ground after a water stop because a runner missed the collection bin, drop it into a collection bin so Hiccup's can retrieve it and re-use it. Thanks for helping us with our commitment to sustainability!

MUSIC ON THE COURSE

As you are watching for your runner and cheering for everyone, you can also watch and listen for the bands, DJs, and other uniquely Athens entertainers along the course! Watch the race [Facebook Page](#) closer to race day for more details about entertainment.

AFTER THE RACE

FINISH LINE & FINISHERS' CHUTE

The finish line for all races is at the corner of East Dougherty Street and Foundry Street, at the north end of the Classic Center. You can watch for your runner along Hancock Street or North Thomas Street, or stay warm inside the Classic Center while you wait.

What to Expect After the Race: All runners will be directed to continue through an extended Finishers' Chute to keep the finish line clear.

Spectators are not allowed in the Finishers' Chute or in the Finishers' Snack Zone inside CrossFit Liberate. Plan to meet your runner inside the Classic Center, in the indoor Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area in Grand Ballroom 8, a few minutes after they have crossed the finish line.

INDOOR POST-RACE FESTIVITIES AND AWARDS AREA

Come inside and stay warm! You will be able to find your runner(s) in the indoor Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area a few minutes after they pass the finish line. Come in early if you want to. Enjoy a range of family-friendly activities, enjoy the music, and swap stories with other runners or with your family and friends!



- Composting and recycling will be available in the Classic Center, with Terracycle collection bins for hard-to-recycle wrappers (from Gu or granola bars). Volunteers will help you with what to put into each bin!
- Look for the WaterMonster and its reusable, refillable cups. Please do not take these cups home with you! They are not souvenirs.
- Thank you for your help making our races a zero-waste event!

AWARDS PRESENTATION & PICK-UP

9:30AM: HALF-MARATHON OVERALL AWARDS PRESENTATION

Overall awards for the Athena Half-Marathon will be presented inside the Classic Center Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area at 9:30am (top three runners in overall, masters, and grandmasters categories for male and female runners, and top three overall nonbinary runners).

12PM: MARATHON AND MARATHON RELAY AWARDS PRESENTATION

Overall awards for the lululemon Classic City Marathon and Marathon Relay will be presented inside the Classic Center Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area at 12pm (top three individual runners in overall, masters, and grandmasters categories for male and female runners; top three overall individual nonbinary runners; top three overall relay teams; and several special relay team awards).

AGE GROUP AWARDS PICK-UP

Awards for the top 3 individual finishers in 5-year age groups (starting with 19 and under and ending with 80 and older) can be picked up at the Awards Table inside the Post-Race Classic Center Festivities and Awards Area, after overall winners have been verified (there are no age group awards for the relay).

HEALTH & SAFETY FOR EVERYONE

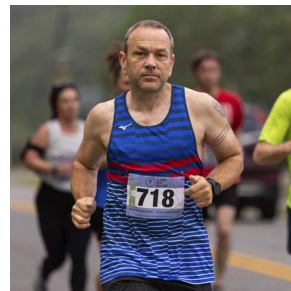
The Classic City Marathon Association has worked closely with the Athens-Clarke County government, the Athens Clarke-County Police Department, the Athens-Clarke County Sheriff's Office, the University of Georgia Police Department, and experts in the Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership to plan for the safety of all runners and spectators.

All Athens-Clarke County and University of Georgia officers have substantial experience managing crowds in Athens for large sporting events, entertainment events, and outdoor festivals. Their goal is always that all participants and all spectators should be able to enjoy the entire event safely. Officers will be positioned throughout the downtown Athens area and along the entire race course. Please watch for them, trust them, and seek them out if you need help.

All runners and spectators must obey all instructions from Athens-Clarke County Police and Sheriff officers, from University of Georgia Police officers, and from race organizers and volunteers.

All runners and spectators must honor all barriers and coned-off areas. Spectators should avoid intruding on private property along the race routes.

Physicians, EMTs, advanced medical students, and other healthcare providers will be available at medical tents and throughout the course. All healthcare personnel have received specialized training about the needs of distance runners and about athletes' safety in winter weather.



All course monitors can communicate with emergency personnel if needed. **Ask any police officer, sheriff's officer, course monitor, or race volunteer, anywhere along the course at any time, if you need medical assistance or if you have concerns about another racer on the course, or call 911 if you are aware of an emergency situation.**

WEATHER SAFETY OR EXTREME OCCURRENCES

Our races' Co-Directors and Medical Director will be monitoring any possibility of severe winter weather or other conditions that might interfere with runners' safety. Registered runners will receive an email if updates are required before or during the race. During the race, announcements will also be made using the public address systems at the Starting Line, at the Finish Line, and inside the Classic Center.

To ensure the safety and well-being of both participants and spectators during the marathon, the lululemon Classic City Marathon will use a standard race flag system.

- If **No Flag** is flying, conditions are **All Clear**. The race can proceed normally.
- The **Yellow Flag** calls for **Caution**. Less-than-ideal conditions might require runners' or spectators' awareness, attention, or preparation.
- The **Red Flag** signals **Dangerous Conditions**. Runners should slow down and be extra cautious, or consider whether their own individual needs might lead them to leave the race. Spectators should be ready to assist under Red Flag conditions.
- The **Black Flag** indicates that the race has been **Stopped** because of extreme and unsafe conditions, necessitating immediate action from everyone involved.

This flag system allows race personnel to communicate important safety information quickly and effectively, ensuring a safe and enjoyable marathon experience for all. Watch for physical yellow, red, or black flags near the Starting Line, at the Relay Exchange Points, and at the Finish Line, and listen for flag-system announcements from security and safety personnel and volunteers along the course.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The Classic City Marathon Association is pleased to recognize the substantial assistance we have received from many groups and individuals. Thank you:

Athens-Clarke County Unified Government

Athens-Clarke County Police

Athens-Clarke County Sheriff

University of Georgia Police

Title Sponsor: lululemon

Platinum Sponsor: Summers Plumbing

Gold Sponsors: EarthFare, Piedmont Athens Healthcare

Silver Sponsors: The Prestec Sales, Inc., Pinnacle Bank, CrossFit Liberate, HIBO, Jittery Joe's, Tifosi

Bronze Sponsors: Partner Technology, Creature Comforts Brewing Co., Athens Counseling Center, Athens Road Runners, Aardvark Exterminating, University Tire, Daniels & Rothman, P.C., Cutters Pub, Brian Cathey Law, Elwood & Goetz, Core Blend Training, Silver & Archibald LLP, Jackson Electric Membership Corporation, Massage Rx of Athens, Southern Sustainability Institute, J.W. York Homes, Athens Running Company, Brown & McCook, Hadden Estate, Milestone Construction, Athens Orthopedic Clinic, NKC, Classic Race Services

Patron Sponsors: Athens-Clarke Emergency Specialists, American Pride Bank, Creed Fitness, IV Me Wellness & Aesthetics, Jackson | Spalding, Resource Partners, Joiner & Associates Realtors, Inc., Sentry Restoration, Sydney Micheletti Therapy Services LLC, Taqueria La Parrilla Mexican Restaurant, Smoothie King

Friend Sponsors: Grand Oak Chiropractic, Grahl Construction, Charles Schwab, Athens Personal Fitness, Donegal Insurance Group, Tribe Hair Company, Independent Baking Company, Manhattan Cafe, Boswell Oil Company, Fleet Feet Athens

And A Special Thank You To: All churches along the race route whose Sunday-morning traditions have been interrupted, all businesses and residents along the race route, and all of our spectators, family, friends, supporters, and runners!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

The Second Annual lululemon Classic City Marathon, Athena Half-Marathon, and Classic City Marathon Relay will be held in Athens in early 2025.

See you then!