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2021 YMCA Turkey Trot Frequently Asked Questions

What is the YMCA Turkey Trot?

Known to be the oldest continuously run footrace in the world, the YMCA Turkey Trot is an 8K (4.97 mile) Thanksgiving Day tradition that attracts over 14,000 runners of all ages and abilities to the City of Buffalo each year. To add to the excitement, many participants also choose to run in costumes.

REGISTRATION

When does registration open for the 2021 YMCA Turkey Trot?

Online registration for the 126th YMCA Turkey Trot opens Thursday, August 12 at 11:00 am.

Will there be a virtual-race option this year?

Yes, if you are unable to make the in-person event, you can register to participate virtually. Virtual entrants can run the race at the time and place of their choosing anytime between Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 25) and Sunday, November 28, 2021.

How much is it to register for the race?

The cost is \$37 per person to participate either in-person or virtually. The price goes up to \$42 per person on October 1. The non-refundable registration fee includes all online processing fees and a commemorative t-shirt. In-person registration is available until race capacity (14,000 participants) is met.

What does my registration fee help to support?

Your participation in the YMCA Turkey Trot helps fund YMCA programs that empower youth, improve community health, and ensure access to all. YMCA Buffalo Niagara is a charitable, community-based organization dedicated to strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Proceeds raised from the YMCA Turkey Trot play a vital role in helping youth, families, and seniors access the resources that help them to learn, grow, and thrive.

If I cannot make the race, will I be issued a refund?

Sorry, all registration fees (individual & team) are non-refundable.

Can I transfer my in-person registration to the virtual event?

Yes. The deadline to transfer your in-person race registration to the virtual event is **Tuesday, November 16**. To request a registration transfer, contact ymcabuffaloturkeytrot@gmail.com.

PACKET PICKUP

When and where does packet pick-up take place?

Pre-Race packet pick-up is available Monday, November 22 through Wednesday, November 24 at the INDEPENDENT HEALTH FAMILY BRANCH YMCA, located at 150 Tech Drive in Amherst (off of Main Street and Wehrle Drive near the ECC North Campus). Race Day packet pick-up is also available 7:00-8:30 am at the DELAWARE FAMILY YMCA, 2564 Delaware Avenue in North Buffalo.

I can't make it to packet pick-up. Can someone else get my packet for me?

Yes. You can have someone pick it up for you.

Can I have my packet shipped to me?

A packet shipping option is only available to virtual Turkey Trot registrants living outside Erie and Niagara counties.

Will there be a Runners Expo this year at packet pick-up?

Yes. Runner's Roost is sponsoring this year's Expo at the Independent Health Family Branch YMCA from Monday, November 22 thru Wednesday, November 24 between 10:00 am – 7:00 pm.



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RACE LOGISTICS

When does the race take place?

A: The event is held every Thanksgiving morning. This year's race takes place Thursday, November 25, 2021. The starting gun goes off at 9:00 am SHARP!

What is the race route?

The race course is point to point covering approximately 5 miles. It starts at Delaware & Tacoma Avenues, travels south on Delaware Avenue through Niagara Square and continues south on Delaware Avenue to Church Street. Runners then turn left on Church and travel to Franklin Street. Runners will turn left on Franklin and take Franklin just past Court St. to the finish line. The route map can be accessed on the Turkey Trot webpage at YMCABN.org.

What time should I arrive on the day of the race and where do I check in?

Please arrive at least 1 hour before the race, depending on where you decide to park. If you have your bib number in hand, simply head to the start line and line up according to your running ability using the large pace flags along the side of the road. If you were unable to pick up your race packet prior to race day, go to the Delaware YMCA (2564 Delaware Avenue in N. Buffalo) between 7:00 and 8:30 am to obtain your race bib/number and then head to the start line.

Am I able to participate in the in-person event if I am not vaccinated?

Yes. We will make every effort to conduct this year's race in accordance with CDC, state, and local guidelines. We will rely on each runner (vaccinated and unvaccinated) to conduct themselves with best practices with regards to COVID-19 protocols including practical physical distancing, wearing facemasks, etc. CDC Guidelines on how to protect yourself can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/index.html>.

Will there be water handed out anywhere along the course?

Water will only be available at the finish line. There will be no water stations along the course.

Is there assistance available if I can't do the whole course?

Yes, there will be a trail bus following the end of the race pack which can transport you to the finish line. A first aid station is also located on the first level of the Convention Center if needed. Paramedics will also be on hand at the finish line to assist as needed.

Will bathroom facilities be available before the race?

Port-o-potties are available near the start line at the Delaware Family YMCA on the north side of the building. Bathroom facilities are also available inside the Convention Center and Statler City at the finish.

Can I bring my dog to the race?

Animals, shopping carts, rollerblades, and strollers are prohibited on the race course for the safety of everyone involved.

CONTESTS

Will there be a Costume Contest again this year?

Yes! The contest is held before the race outside the Delaware YMCA, just north of the start line. Those wishing to participate need to check in at the stage (look for the Y logo) no later than 8:30 am to be eligible for consideration. Prizes will be awarded for the best individual and group costume.



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Will there be any additional contests to enter?

Yes! We want to honor all the amazing Turkey Day chefs out there so we're awarding prizes for the best Thanksgiving Turkey and/or side dish. To enter, simply post a photo of one or both of your kitchen creations to our Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with #TurkeyTrot126 on Thanksgiving Day. Winners will be announced the week of November 29, 2021

PARKING/SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE ON RACE DAY

Where may I park on race day?

Street parking is available as well as in surrounding parking lots (some lots may require a fee) near both the start and finish lines. Shuttle bus service to and from the start and finish lines will be available both before and after the race.

Where are the shuttles located and what time do they run?

Shuttle buses will run from Pearl Street behind the Convention Center to the North Buffalo Target Plaza parking lot (2626 Delaware Ave.). Pre-race shuttles run from 7:00-7:45 am; plan to arrive EARLY as lines will be long. Post-race shuttles run from approximately 10:00 am to 11:45 am.

POST RACE PARTY/AWARDS CEREMONY

Where do I go after I cross the finish line?

Please join us for our annual post-race party and awards ceremony! Our awards ceremony takes place inside the Convention Center where you can also enjoy music, refreshments, and adult beverages. Our family friendly, alcohol-free zone with a DJ and refreshments will be located across the street in the lobby of Statler City.

Do I have to show ID to partake in adult beverages at the Convention Center?

Yes. You must be at least 21 and show proper ID to be served alcohol at the post-race party.

What race awards are given out for what categories?

Awards are determined by gun time for overall and masters winners. Age group winners are determined by chip time. Trophies are awarded to 1st place overall male and female, and 1st place overall male and female masters.

Age group awards are given for 1st through 3rd place male and female in the following age categories: 9 & under, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80 & over.

Can I register my group as a team to run the YMCA Turkey Trot?

Yes, we offer both a family team category and a corporate all comers category. Teams can be a combination of in-person and virtual participants. However, virtual team members finishing times will not be calculated into your team's overall average time for the awards presented on the day of the in-person race.

How do I register my group as a team?

All team members must individually register first, before a team can be registered. The fee is \$5 per team of four or more. Teams can have an unlimited number of participants however team awards are determined by the average combined chip time of the top four in-person team members. 1st through 3rd place team awards are given for each category.



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MORE WAYS TO GIVE BACK

I'd like to participate in the race as a volunteer. How can I help?

There are a number of pre- and race day volunteer opportunities available. Volunteers must be 18 or older or accompanied by a parent or guardian. For a complete listing of volunteer opportunities or to register visit YMCABN.org.

Will there be a food drive again this year?

Yes! We are proud to partner with **Feed More WNY** and **Channel 2** to help combat hunger through our annual food drive! Please bring two cans (or more!) of non-perishable food items to your local YMCA branch from November 1-30. You can also drop off your donation when you pick-up your race packet at the Independent Health Family Branch (Nov. 22-24). On race day, collection bins will be located at the start line, at the Delaware Family YMCA entrance and at the Convention Center.

NEW THIS YEAR! The YMCA will also be collecting items to support **Friends of the Night People** and the **Buffalo City Mission**. Collection bins will be located at Buffalo Niagara YMCA branches from November 1-30. Items needed include men's large and x-large boxer briefs, sweatpants, sweat crew tops, warm winter gloves and body lotion.

What if I have more questions about the YMCA Turkey Trot?

For more information on this year's race, please call the YMCA Turkey Trot call line at (716) 565-6000.