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VIRTUAL EVENT FAQs

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.

Why is there a virtual option?

We know there are many who can't make it home for the Thanksgiving holiday and that Thanksgiving Day schedules may prevent others from being able to participate. The virtual option gives those unable to attend the in-person race the opportunity to be a part of this special WNY holiday tradition.

When does the Virtual YMCA Turkey Trot take place?

Virtual participants have the option of running your virtual Turkey Trot any day or time starting Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 25) through Sunday, November 28, 2021.

How many miles is the YMCA Turkey Trot?

The YMCA Turkey Trot is an 8k footrace or 4.97 miles in length.

Do I have to be a runner to participate?

No! Whether you're a competitive runner, casual jogger, or walker, the Turkey Trot is for you. All ages and abilities are welcome!

How much does the virtual YMCA Turkey Trot cost?

\$37 per participant. The non-refundable registration fee includes all online processing fees and a commemorative t-shirt. The price goes up to \$42 per person on October 1.

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.

When does registration open for the virtual YMCA Turkey Trot?

Online registration for the YMCA Turkey Trot opens Thursday, August 12, 2021.

What is the race route?

As a virtual participant, you get to choose the location and time of day that works best for you! We encourage you to download and use the **RaceJoy smartphone app**. This app not only helps you track your progress but does so as if you were running down Delaware Avenue.

How do you register for the virtual YMCA Turkey Trot?

Register online at YMCATurkeyTrot.org and click on the registration link.

Can I participate, even though I live in a different city, state, or country?

Yes! Because it's a virtual event, you can participate wherever you call home. We just ask for additional shipping charges to get your race packet to you if you live outside North America.



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

Yes. The deadline to transfer your virtual registration to the in-person event prior to the race capacity being met and no later than **Tuesday, November 16**. To request a registration transfer contact ymcabuffaloturkeytrot@gmail.com.

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).

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.

I live outside the WNY area. Can I have my packet shipped to me?

Those living outside of Erie and Niagara counties can select to have their packet shipped to them for an additional fee.

Will there be a Runners Expo this year?

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.

Will I need to show proof of finishing?

We are on the honor system. The goal of the virtual YMCA Turkey Trot is to give everyone both near and far the opportunity to take part in WNY's time-honored Thanksgiving Day tradition.

Are virtual participants eligible for the top finisher awards?

Virtual participants times will not be factored into the in-person event's overall or age group awards that are presented on Thanksgiving Morning. All registered virtual participants will receive a commemorative 126th YMCA Turkey Trot t-shirt.

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 or all virtual. 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.

Will there be a Costume Contest?

The costume contest is limited to in-person race participants this year. It will be 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.

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.



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Are there other ways I can help support the YMCA and the Turkey Trot?

Turkey Trot volunteers are needed to support the various pre-race and race day volunteer opportunities. Volunteers must be 18 or older or accompanied by a parent or guardian. To view a complete listing of opportunities available or to register visit YMCABN.org.

We are proud to once again partner with **Feed More WNY** and **Channel 2** to help combat hunger through our annual food drive! Anyone living in the YMCA Buffalo Niagara service area is encouraged to drop off 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).

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.