MARATHON/HALF MARATHON INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 13, 2014
Bib pickup : Cleveland Convention Center
300 Lakeside Avenue Cleveland, OH 44113
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday, August 15, 2014
Bib Pickup: John S. Knight Center
77 E Mill St, Akron, OH 44308
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 16, 2014
Gay Games Marathon, Gay Games Half Marathon
Race start/finish: Akron Civic Theatre
182 S. Main St, Akron, 44308
5:00 a.m. Race announcements
6:00 a.m. Marathon and Half Marathon start
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Race finish and awards

RACE DAY PARKING AND DRIVING DIRECTIONS

All city lots and decks are free of charge race morning. It is advised to be in downtown Akron no later than 5:15 a.m. to ensure arrival to start line prior to the 6:00 a.m. start.

From I-77/I-76 All Directions:

Cascade Garage:
I-77/I-76 to Grant Street/Wolf Ledges exit, travel North on Wolf Ledges, right on Arc, left on E. Exchange, right on Bowery, left on Quaker St.

O'Neils Garage:
I-77/I-76 to Grant Street/Wolf Ledges exit, travel North on Wolf Ledges, right on Arc, left on E. Exchange, right on Bowery, right on State.

CitiCenter Garage:
I-77/I-76 to Rt. 8 North. Exit at Perkins. Turn left on Perkins, turn left on High St.

TRANSPORTATION

All Gay Games 9 registered participants can use their credential to ride the public transit systems in Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Summit (Akron) and Lake counties. Most venues are along public transportation routes. For shuttle service between Cleveland and Akron as well as venues inaccessible through public transportation, participants also have access to private Gay Games 9 shuttle transportation during Games Week. Each one-way trip takes about 75 minutes. Pick-up and drop-off locations include Cleveland Convention Center, Public Square in downtown Cleveland, Independence, Fairlawn, Akron City Center Hotel, and Akron Transit Center. All runners participating in the marathon/half should get off the shuttle at the Akron City Center Hotel stop and walk to the start line.

Shuttle service schedule between Cleveland and Akron the morning/afternoon of August 16th is below.

Departure times from Cleveland to Akron:

4:00 AM

Departure times from Akron to Cleveland:

8:45 AM
9:45 AM
10:45 AM
11:45 AM
12:45 PM
4:45 PM

BIB PICK-UP

All runners MUST pick up their race bibs at either of the two bib pickup locations, detailed below. Bib pick-up will not be available on race day. Each runner should pick up his or her own bib and confirm contact information is correct on the bib label placed on the back of the bib.

Location: Cleveland Convention Center
Time : Wednesday, August 13, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Address: 300 Lakeside Avenue Cleveland, OH 44113

Location: John S. Knight Center
Time: Friday, August 15, 2014 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Address: 77 E Mill St, Akron, OH 44308

BIB INFORMATION

Your race bib serves as your identification for the race. Participants must pin the bib on the front of his or her shirt. Safety pins will be provided at the time of bib pick-up. It is imperative that the registration data associated with your race number does belong to you, the participant. While it may seem harmless to run under an unauthorized number, it does convey serious consequences to the organizers and participant field alike. Correct information allows medical staff to correctly identify participants in need of treatment and ensures accuracy of race results and awards.
Your race bib contains your timing chip which is a disposable timing system for accurate timing and scoring. Please take care not to bend or cut your race bib, in doing so you may damage your timing device. You will not need to remove the tag from the bib to put on your shoe. The timing device remains on your bib. Make sure your bib is placed securely on the **FRONT** of your shirt. Official time is based on Gun Time in accordance to USATF rules.

RACE START

Starting Line Corral
Both half and full marathon runners will line up in the starting line corral together. There will not be a separate corral for half marathon runners. There will be pace team members lined up in the corral and it is advised to line up near the pace team member corresponding to the pace you plan to race. By lining up by pace with faster runners in the front, this creates a smoother start for all runners.

Gear Check
Gear check drop-off and pick-up are in one central location. Gear Check will be located one block south of the Start/Finish Line at the corner of State Street and Main Street. Runners can place their extra clothing and items not needed on the race course in the provided clear gear bags to be dropped off at the Gear Check location. Do not place cell phone, wallets, or keys in your gear check bag. Look for the tall flags labeled "Gear Check". The clear gear bags will be available at the gear check tent. There will be signage to categorize gear bags by bib number. Items must be picked up day of race by 12:30 p.m.

COURSE DETAILS

Course Information
The marathon and half marathon courses are certified USATF sanctioned courses #OH14030MW and #OH14029MW. The course is run on paved asphalt and concrete streets. Runners are responsible for knowing the course. **Please note: this is a loop course.** Runners will be split on Mill Street as you approach the 13 mile marker to divide the half marathon runners and finishing marathon runners from the marathon runners completing their first lap. Please review the course map on page 7.

Course Limit
The full marathon course is officially open for six hours from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; equivalent to approximately 13:44 per mile pace. The half marathon course is officially open for three and a half hours from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.; equivalent to approximately 16:02 per mile pace. Those who fall behind course closure times will be asked to move to the sidewalk or board the SAG, end of race vehicle. The finish line, medical aid stations and fluid stations will remain open for a 6-hour pace and close on schedule.

Course signage
The course will be marked at each turn with both signage and orange arrows marked on the street. There will also be signage on Mill Street to split the half marathon and finishing marathon runners from those completing the first loop of the marathon. Through the University of Akron there will be a white chalk line to direct runners through campus. There will be feather flags placed at each mile along the course.

Restrooms
Portable restrooms, each with Purell hand cleaner, will be available at 8 locations on each loop, including the start line, finish line, and fluid stations.

Fluid Stations
There will be 7 fluid stations on each loop, located approximately every 2 miles, supplying POWERADE and water to runners. As you approach a fluid station, water will be available first followed by POWERADE. Additionally, fluids will be distributed at the finish line. We do not recommend taking food or fluids from non-official locations.

Energy Gel
Carb BOOM energy gels will be provided at one location along the half marathon course and three locations along the marathon route. The stations are located at mile 7.9, 13.1 and 21. Each of these locations are approximately 500 feet before a fluid station. You will have the option to take your gel packet either opened or closed. Runners that require energy gel earlier or at different times should plan to be self-supported.

Medical Aid Stations
There will be 4 aid stations available on each loop to runners along the course. Summa Health System will provide all medical assistance during this event. For your safety, it is important to print any specific medical needs and an emergency contact name and number on the reverse side of your race bib, markers will be available at bib pickup. Medical stations will be equipped to assist runners with any basic medical needs and will also have a supply of Band-Aids and Vaseline, if needed. For medical emergencies, an ambulance will be called to transport the runner to a local hospital. HAM radio operators will be available approximately every mile to alert someone if you need immediate medical assistance while on the course. NSAID's (Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs such as Advil, Aleve, Ibuprofen, etc.) will NOT be provided at the aid tents. NSAIDs, especially in a dehydrated runner, can adversely affect the kidneys and can increase the risk of hyponatremia (low blood sodium). Tylenol will be available.

Pace Teams
The Gay Games is providing an additional benefit for marathon and half marathon runners by offering pace teams led by experienced pacers for the following times: 3:30, 3:40, 3:45, 3:55, 4:00, 4:10, 4:15, 4:20, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, (times include many of the Boston qualifying standards). The pace leader runs a steady pace and keeps track of that pace so the group can achieve their goal of finishing the marathon at a particular time. Pace leaders are experienced runners that have run several marathons around the country. There is no cost to run with the pace group.

Prohibited on the Race Course
For the safety of our runners, the Gay Games does not permit: pets, skateboards, strollers, bicycles, roller blades, or any other types of vehicles (other than official Marathon vehicles) on the course. Please do not bring or carry any of these items with you. The Gay Games reserve the right to disqualify and remove anyone from the course who has any of the above items or does not act in a safe manner. All participants agree to abide by and accept the rules of this race and abide by any decision of any race official concerning the runner's ability to safely complete the race.

Unauthorized Runners
Non-registered runners are not permitted to run or walk within the boundaries of the official marathon course. It is important that family and friends NEVER cross the finish line or enter the finish zone which begins approximately 2/10 mile before the finish. Course monitors and police will be stationed throughout the course; assuring only registered runners are on the course. Please be sure your race number is visible from the FRONT at all times during the race.

Lost & Found
All items left at the event will be taken to the Information Booth located at the finish line. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. The Gay Games are not responsible for lost items.

Information Booths
For our runners' convenience, an Information Booth can be found in Lock 3 near the Start/Finish Line.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

All award presentations will take place on the Awards Stage located in Lock 3. The awards will be presented at approximately 7:30 a.m. for the half marathon and 9:00 a.m. for the marathon. The overall top three men and top three women will receive awards at the presentation. Age group awards will also be given to top three men and women in each age group and can be picked up at the results tent upon completion of the race.

Age Group Awards
Top three male and female finishers in all age categories will receive awards: 18-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99, and 100+.

SPECTATOR INFORMATION

The Gay Games marathon and half marathon will start at 182 S. Main St. at 6:00 a.m. With a downtown start, spectators have great opportunities to see the runners from various points that require very little walking.

- Start watching the race in front of the Akron Civic Theatre
- After the start, take a leisurely stroll two blocks south to Exchange St. turn left and walk two blocks east until you reach Broadway. Here you'll be able to see runners at mile 11, and 24 for the full marathon.
- From Broadway, head west on Exchange St. and turn right on Main St. to go back to the start/finish line and watch your runners complete their race.

The post-race party will be located in Lock 3, 200 South Main St. Runners and spectators may want to choose a meeting location, prior to the race, to meet up at after the race.

ROAD CLOSURE INFRORMATION

Please note not all roads are closed to traffic during the event. Runners should watch for oncoming and cross traffic. However, runners will have designated lanes coned off from traffic.

Road Closures	Restrictions	Approximate times
S. Main St.	Between Mill to Cedar	4:00 AM - 2:00 PM
S. Main St	Between long and Broadway	5:45 AM - 9:15 AM
Gottwalt	Between Main and Firestone	6:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Greenlawn	Between Mission and Palmetto	6:15 AM - 10:30 AM
Cypress	Between Bearsley and Firestone	6:15 AM - 10:30 AM
Palm	Between Aster and Brown	6:15 AM - 10:45 AM
Sumner St.	Between Buchtel and carroll	6:45 AM - 11:40 AM
Union St.	Between Carrol and Vine	6:45 AM - 11:45 AM
Vine	Between Union and Spicer	6:45 AM - 11:45 AM

GAY GAMES 2014

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Full and Half Marathon Course

August 16, 2014

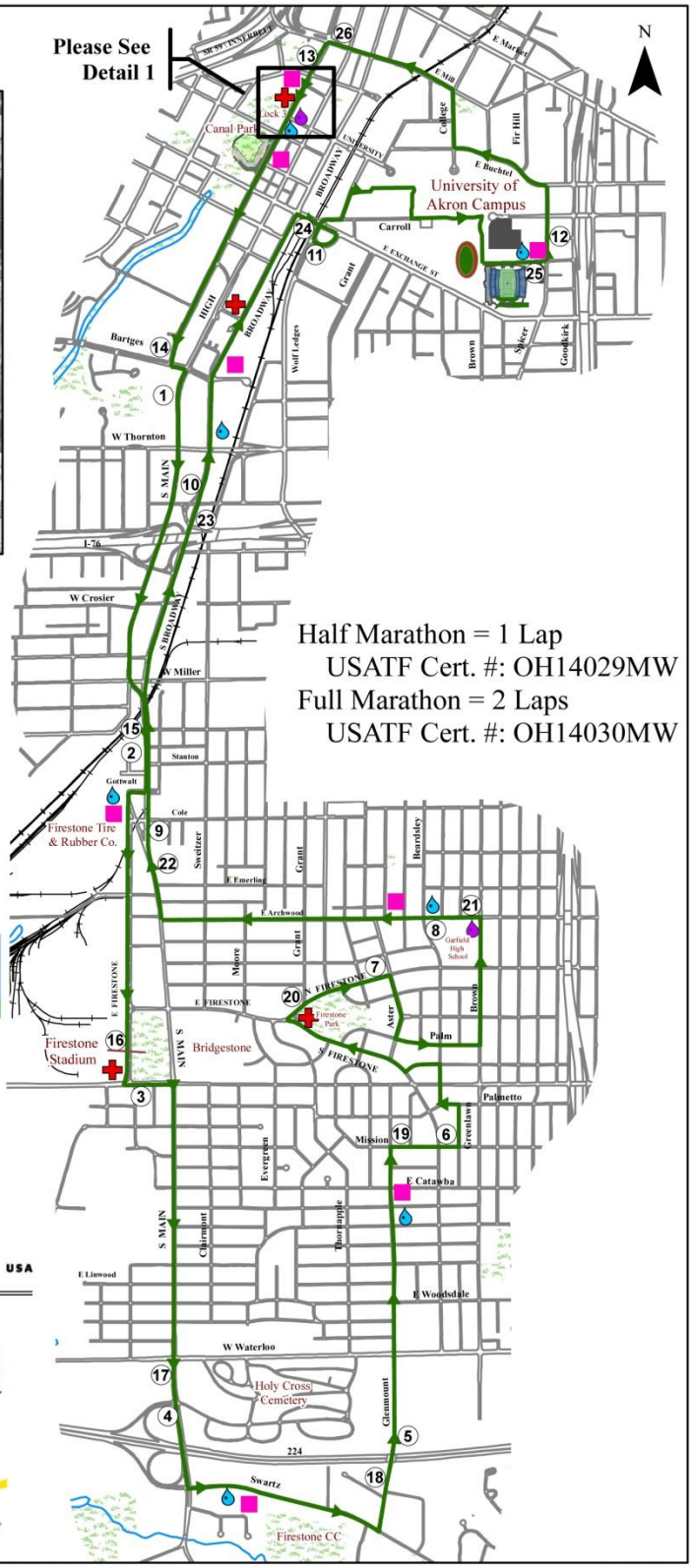
Detail 1

- Energy Gel Stations
- Fluid Stations
- Marathon Mile Markers
- Restrooms
- Medical Aid Stations
- Marathon Course
- Rail Roads

Elevation Profile

1154 ft.
1070 ft.
987 ft.
904 ft.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
miles

Total climb: 546 feet / 167 m
Total elevation change: 1093 feet / 333 m



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Updated Date: 7/14/2014

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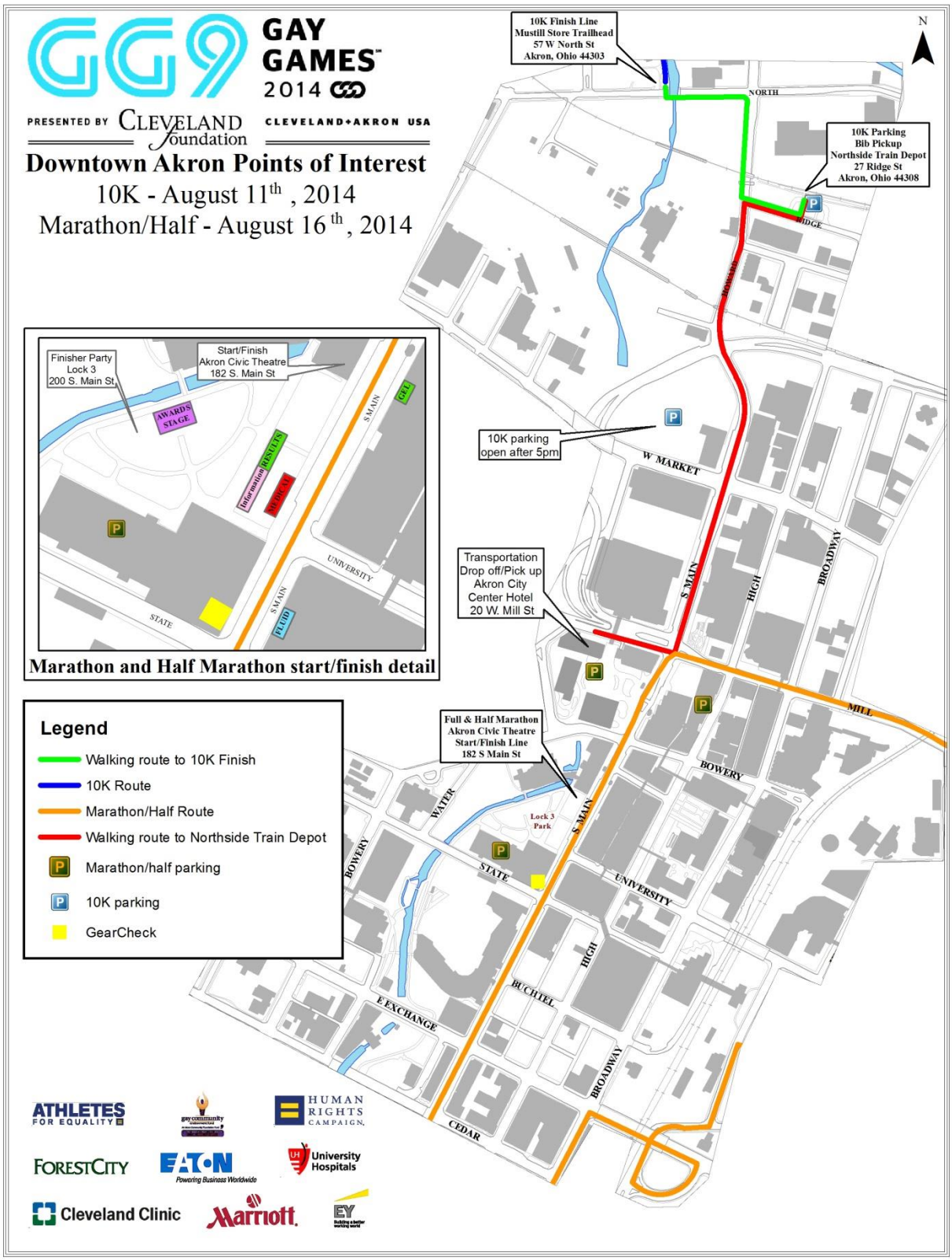

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