



Mississippi Blues Marathon

RUNS ON

Continental



Marathon • Half • Quarter Note • 5K • Relay

Athlete Guide

JANUARY 27, 2018

JACKSON, MS



Welcome to The Blues!

The 11th Annual Mississippi Blues Marathon will take place on January 27, 2018 in downtown Jackson, Mississippi's capital city. With live music before, after, and throughout the course, the Mississippi Blues Marathon proves to be one-of-a-kind. Since our inaugural race in 2008, our event has worked to showcase Jackson and the rich Blues history of the state, with a portion of proceeds going to the Mississippi Blues Commission's Musicians' Benevolent Fund.

Challenge yourself with the marathon or half-marathon, or take things a little easier with our "Quarter Note" quarter marathon or 5K. You can even create a team of five runners and tackle the course as a relay team. Four of you take on five-mile legs with the final runner going the 6.2 miles to the end.

The Mississippi Blues Marathon has been selected for the 2018 RRCA Southern Region Marathon Championship.

With the Mississippi Blues Marathon, there really is something for everyone!

#RunTheBlues

Get official race information on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MississippiBluesMarathon or on Twitter @msbluesmarathon



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RRCA Southern Region Marathon Championship

Mississippi Blues Marathon has been selected for the **2018 RRCA Southern Region Marathon Championship**. The RRCA Southern Region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Below is the entire 2018 RRCA Southern Region Championship slate, with the exception of the Cross Country Regional that will be chosen later:

- **Marathon: Mississippi Blues Marathon, January 27, Jackson, MS**
- 10 Mile: Surgoinsville 10 Miler, February 24, Surgoinsville, TN
- Ultra: Ouachita Trail 50, April 21, Little Rock, AR
- 5K: Swampers 5K, April 28, Muscle Shoals, AL
- 1 Mile: Main Street Mile, May 18, Columbia, SC
- 10K: Signal Mountain Pie Run, October 27, Signal Mountain, TN
- Half Marathon: LaPorte by the Bay, November 18, LaPorte, TX

For more information on the RRCA Championship please visit:

<http://www.rrca.org/our-programs-services/programs/rcaa-championship-series>

Mississippi Blues

People say the blues was born in Mississippi, traveled to Memphis in its youth and grew up in Chicago, but the truth is – the blues never left home. If you've never heard the Mississippi blues, you've never heard the real thing. The unique Mississippi art form of the blues has long been recognized as the foundation for many of today's musical styles.

The Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon honors musicians who have made history over the years, as well as those who continue to shape the sound of the blues today. Check out the links below for more information about the Mississippi blues.

Explore the [Mississippi Blues Trail](#) to see first-hand how the Blues lived and grew throughout the state.

The [Delta Blues Museum](#) offers a tremendous history of the blues and its Mississippi roots. Nestled in the heart of Clarksdale, Mississippi, the museum is a destination point for blues musicians and fans alike. [Clarksdale's Juke Joint Festival](#) in April offers another great Delta blues experience for visitors with culturally-connected live blues and authentic juke joints.

Read more about [Robert Johnson](#), a Mississippi son long recognized as the most influential early blues musician.

Presenting Sponsor - Continental Tire



Beginning in 2018 Continental is the new title sponsor of the Mississippi Blues Marathon. With a new plant scheduled to open in Hinds County, Mississippi in late 2019, with ground breaking started in 2016, Continental Tire the Americas has initiated substantial economic development and community outreach to the State of Mississippi for years to come.

[**Press Release**](#) (Click to VIEW | PRINT)

The idea for the Mississippi Blues Marathon began through a group of individuals committed to civic opportunities. They wanted an event to showcase the city of Jackson, as well as the rich Blues history of the state of Mississippi. That's how the Mississippi Blues Marathon has come to be what it is today.

To support the state's rich Blues heritage, the Mississippi Blues Marathon has donated a portion of its proceeds each year to the Blues Foundation and its efforts in supporting local Blues musicians. For the past several years, the donation has been earmarked to support the Blues Musicians Benevolent Fund, which provides financial support to Blues musicians in need.

Please Thank Our Sponsors



Schedule of Events | Pre-Race

| | |
|--|--|
| MARRIOTT HOTEL 200 Amite Street Jackson, MS 39201 | |
| Thursday, January 25, 2018 | |
| 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Expo, Packet Pick Up, New Registration |
| Friday, January 26, 2018 | |
| 9:00 am – 7:00 pm | Expo, Packet Pick Up, New Registration |
| 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm | Extended Packet Pick Up |

Items needed for Packet Pick Up

1. Photo id
2. Completed Proxy form (if applicable)
3. Parking Ticket for validation
4. Patience
5. Smiling face

Waivers

All athletes are required to sign a waiver upon registering for the race. Additional waivers will be available at packet pick up if your name is flagged as "WAIVER NOT SIGNED"

Parking (Packet Pick Up)

Complimentary parking is available to all athletes who park in the Marriott Garage. Tickets will be validated at packet pick up.

Registration Changes

The registration team will accommodate all requests at the Solutions Table at the expo. If there is a price difference for upgrading the category, the difference will be due at packet pick up.

Pre-Race Dinner Specials in the Downtown Area:

The Elite – 141 E. Capitol St. Jackson, MS

The Elite Restaurant Special - 20% off entire check for runners, their spouses and children, all day Friday from 7:00 am – 9:30 pm, and Saturday beginning at 4:30 pm until 9:00 pm.

Schedule of Events | Race Day

| START FINISH LINE | |
|---|--|
| Mississippi Museum of Art Art Garden 380 South Lamar St. Jackson, MS 39201 | |
| Saturday, January 27, 2018 | |
| 6:00 am | Gear Check Opens |
| 6:55 am | National Anthem |
| 7:00 am | Marathon, Half Marathon, Quarter marathon, 5k and Marathon Relay Start |
| 11:00 am | Awards Presented on Stage |
| 3:00 pm | Gear Check Closes |

Race Day Start / Finish Location

The Start/Finish area is located at the Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art at 380 South Lamar. The exact location of the starting line is the intersection of Pascagoula Street and Lamar Street.

Race Day Parking

There is plenty of parking all around the start/finish area. There are lots across the street from the Convention Center/Expo and all metered parking downtown is free on weekends. Garage parking is available in the City Centre Garage just steps from the starting line. The fee is \$5 all day. Enter from West Street or Pearl Street. We recommend that you leave valuables invisible in your car during the race.

Gear Check

Gear check is located in the Mississippi Arts Center Building (not the Museum of Art) at the corner of Lamar and Pascagoula Streets, Between the Start and Finish lines. Look for the banners marking the Gear Check. Gear Check will be open from 6:00 am – 3:00 pm race day. Any items not claimed after 3:00 pm will be donated to local charities.

Race Results

Race Results will be posted and updated throughout the day on the front steps of the Mississippi Museum of Art, Next to the Food tent.

After the Race

Join us at the Art Garden of the Mississippi Museum of Art. We'll have live music, hot food, cold Pepsi and Budweiser products, and some great local craft beer on tap. Free post-race massages will be available in the community room of the Museum of Art. Look for the Massage banner to the left of the Museum entrance.

Restrooms

There will be at least one porta-john with .1 miles of every aid station except mile 16.6

Relay Information

Relay Exchange zones will be marked with a white feather banner. There is plenty of parking around all the following handoff points.

Exchange #1 (Mile 5) | Baptist Medical Arts East, 1190 North State Street.

Parking is in the open lot off Carlisle Street

Exchange #2 (Mile 10) | Meadowbrook Shopping Center.

Parking is on the right in shopping center lot.

Exchange #3 (Mile 15) | Jackson Academy, 498 Ridgewood Road.

Parking is through the gated entrance to the school.

Exchange #4 (Mile 20) | Eastover Drive at the Phi Theta Kappa offices, 1625 Eastover Drive.

Parking is available at all four relay exchange locations. Each team member receives a finisher medal at the finish line. We encourage all team members to meet downtown and run the last few blocks with their final runner to get a finisher's picture of the entire team and receive their finisher medals together at the finish line.

Aid Stations

Aid Stations are located roughly every 1.6 miles through mile 20 and every mile from 20-25. Every Station will offer water and Gatorade Endurance. Clif Shot is offered at mile 8 on the half and at miles 15 and 21 on the marathon.

Race Route

Turn-by-turn directions may be found on the race day & course info page at msbluesmarathon.events

IMPORTANT – Course Changes

The Half Marathon course separates from the Marathon at a different location this year. The course does NOT turn right on Lakeland Drive at the Chevron Station as it has in the past. Half Marathoners will continue straight with the marathon until just past the 7-mile mark. The two courses will split at Ridge Drive in Woodland Hills, with the Marathon turning left and the Half Marathon turning right. Both the marathon and half marathon courses will turn left off the East Frontage Road into the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum property, not Lakeland Drive where they have turned in the past.

Food & Drink for Spectators

The Pallete restaurant in the Mississippi Museum of Art will open for breakfast and lunch during the race.

Awards

- Overall and Age Group Awards
- Overall, Master, Grand Masters and Age Group places will be awarded three deep. Overall Awards will be presented on the stage at 11:00.
- Marathon and Half Marathon will be given awards for Male and Female in 5 year increments.
- Quarter Note and 5k will be given awards for Male and Female in 10 year increments starting with age 20. Athletes under 20 will be separated as 13-19 and 12 & under.

Post Race

Check the website after the race for post-race information...

Have your bib number ready and visit our website for your finish line photos and race results:

Photos: msbluesmarathon.events/photos/

Results: msbluesmarathon.events/results/

Don't forget to share your photos on social media using #RunTheBlues.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MississippiBluesMarathon/>

Twitter: @msbluesmarathon

Blues Crawl

After you have rested your soles, there is more fun on race night! The annual Blues crawl takes you through some of Jackson's favorite locales for more of the Blues! Each registered participant will have an armband in the race packet for admittance to all stops on the Blues Crawl. Our free shuttle will be available to transport you to and from each location on the crawl to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable evening!

Non-runners can purchase an armband for \$10 at the expo, start/finish area and at participating venues. Shuttles will be running in order between the following locations from 7:00 pm to midnight every ten minutes:

- Old Capitol Inn
- Fenian's
- Ole Tavern on George Street
- Marriott
- King Edward Hotel
- Iron Horse Grill
- Hal & Mal's
- Martin's
- One Block East



Back2Back Challenge Information



Participants in the Back2Back Challenge - Please wear your Blues Crawl wristband to Big Beach Marathon in order to receive your Back2Back Finisher Medal.

Important Information

If you are riding the Blues Bus, it will begin loading at noon in front of the Jackson Convention Complex 105 E. Pascagoula St. (West of the Starting Line) at noon. If we have more than one bus, the first one will leave as soon it is full and the second as soon as everyone is on board.

Please note the last bus will leave once every confirmed rider has boarded, but no later than 2:30 pm. If you have registered for the bus and will not be riding, please send an email to:
noblin@msbluesmarathon.com

For those that will not return to their hotel room after the race, locker room facilities will be available at Downtown Fitness, 100 East Capitol Street, Suite 107 (approximately 2 blocks from the Start/Finish area) starting at 8:00 am. Show your bib or finisher's medal for access to the facility. Gear Check is available during the race at the Blues Start / Finish area.

Big Beach Packet Pickup closes at 6:00 pm on Saturday. A representative from Big Beach will have your packet until the bus arrives. **Please do not wait until race morning to pick up your packet.** You will be responsible for your own transportation from the bus unloading point to your accommodations and back to the starting line on Sunday morning. See the Big Beach race website for additional race information.

The bus will load on Sunday after the race in the parking lot between the Phoenix All Suites Hotel and The Hangout, adjacent to the Big Beach Start/Finish area. The loading and departure schedule will start loading at noon. Once all confirmed riders have boarded, the bus will leave. Everyone must be on board no later than 2:30 pm. **If you will not be riding the bus back to Jackson, please inform the bus captain on Saturday.**



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MARATHON







