

FAQ

When is it? Sunday March 16, 2008

*What time does the race start? 8:35 AM

*What is the distance? Half Marathon is 13.1 miles

*Where does the race start/end?

Cary Grove High School
2208 Three Oaks Road
Cary, IL 60013 ([click here for Google link](#))

*Where do I park?

There is very limited parking at the High School & the adjoining Park District facility but it fills up FAST! Parking in the Church parking lot across the street is FORBIDDEN!!!! Don't even try as you will be towed! There is also parking at the Cary Public Library further east on Three Oaks Road and is easily within walking distance from the start.

*Where and what time does packet pick up open?

Saturday, March 15th 10 AM – 4 PM at The Running Depot.. 30 North Williams St, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
Sunday, March 16th (Race day) 6:30 - 8:00AM in the Cary-Grove Gym on race day. Packet pickup is in the High School Gym. Entrance is on the north side of the School across from the football field.

*Is there Race Day Registration??

NO!!! Registration must be done in advance online.

*What's the weather going to be like?

This race has a 29 year history of weather being totally unpredictable! We have had bright sunshine and deep snow. Pack accordingly. The race has NEVER BEEN CANCELED due to weather so don't call.

*Can I bring any of the following: Dog, Cat, Headphones, Running or other strollers, rollerblades, bicycles, scooters or motorcycles?

NO!!!! All of these items are prohibited by our insurance carrier. Failure to adhere to this will result in disqualification for you and your Dog.

*How many water stations will there be and where are they?

We have 5 water and Gatorade stations every 2.5 miles over the entire course. Gatorade followed by water at each station. Gatorade and water at the start and at the finish.

*How quickly does the race fill up?

In recent years, the race has filled quickly. This means that registration could be closed as early as mid January. Once closed, 15 Race Entries will be available on EBay! 100% of all proceeds from the EBay entries will go to our scholarship fund. Special accommodations will be afforded to these special runners including the use of a private indoor restroom.

*What is the scholarship fund?

To honor a former member, the Hillstriders Running Club sponsors the Fritz Kaufman Scholarship for McHenry County High School Senior distance runners. 2 Awards each for Male and Female. Officers of the club, local educators and representatives of the press judge the entries. Past years awards were \$2000 for 1st Male and \$2000 for the 1st Female. \$500 for each runner up. This scholarship is designed to encourage excellence in our local youth athletes.

*What are the age divisions?

Age divisions/Awards are as follows: (see March Madness race page)

*Who will get a trophy?

Male and Female winners will receive a very cool trophy. Top Ten winners will receive a very cool plaque and Age Group winners (3 deep) will receive very cool medals.

*Are there restrooms and showers available?

There are very limited indoor restrooms in the school. There are also 'Porta-Pottys' in the school parking lot. Arrive early as the fill up fast.

*Who are the Hillstriders?

The Hillstriders Running Club was founded roughly 30 years ago. The Club consists of nearly 100 members, runners from around the McHenry County area. Our Club sponsors two events annually: March Madness and the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5k at Lippold Park in Crystal Lake. The Club encourages new members.

*What can I drink?

Anything but alcohol. Water, Gatorade and coffee will be available at the school before and after the race. CONSUMPTION OF ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES ON OR AROUND SCHOOL GROUNDS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. NO EXCEPTIONS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS WILL BE RELENTLESSLY ENFORCED. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE OR REPORTED TO THE CARY P.D. OR BOTH.

*What can I smoke?

NOTHING!!!! You're a runner what are you thinking????? School District #155 has a strict SMOKE-FREE policy on school grounds. No smoking, of any kind, is allowed on District 155 property. This applies to all those in attendance including spectators. This means everyone. This will be aggressively enforced with fire extinguishers.

*How will the results be tabulated?

March Madness uses DRKcomputing for Race Results. You will be directed through a chute at the finish to be counted. Do not forget to pick up your results card at the DRKcomputing tent after you finish. No cards will be available after Race Day. Results can be found on DRKcomputings web page the URL can be found on the Hillstriders web page.

*What is a 'Bandit'?

A 'Bandit' is someone or something that competes in a race without registering. People (?) that do this ruin the race for everyone else. If you are compelled to run without registering (paying), DO NOT RUN THROUGH THE FINISH LINE CHUTE!!! There will be a course clock for you, memorize your 'Bandit' time. We provide quality timing and scoring for the race and we don't want the actions a few to screw it up for everyone else.

*What is Race Day Registration?

I thought we covered this! THERE IS NO RACE DAY REGISTRATION SO, DON'T ASK. WE CAN ONLY ACCOMMODATE 1000 RUNNERS TO MAINTAIN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE OF CARY. THOSE 1000 PEOPLE WILL HAVE BEEN PREREGISTERED FOR A MONTH IN ADVANCE. BE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE OR, WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.

*Will there be a Gear Check??

YES!! Gear check will be located in the school cafeteria and staffed by our friendly and ultra-efficient volunteers and it's FREE so be nice to our volunteers!!!

*Where are the Start and Finish lines?

The starting line is on Three Oaks Road in front of the High School. The start is at 8:35AM sharp. Be there or be square. The finish has been moved to the High School Parking lot adjacent to the football field. Runners will turn right (north) on First Street and then left into the school parking lot where the finish line is located. This was done to keep runners off of Three Oaks Road where the cars are.

*How hard is the course?

The course is 'world-renowned' for its hills. The March Madness Marathon Course has been dubbed the most challenging in Northern Illinois and an excellent training race for spring marathons. Difficulty will be determined by the individual runner's pace and threshold for pain. We strongly recommend that you train for this race on hills, both uphill and downhill. On a scale of 1 to 10, we rate this 8. This means the course is not flat! The Hillstriders Club trains on this course from November through the date of the race at 7:00AM every Sunday (except Christmas). Don't be late or Joel will yell at you. Please join us.

In summary: Please do not smoke anything or drink alcoholic beverages on or around school grounds. This is of paramount importance as we enjoy the privilege of using Cary-Grove High School and their cooperation is essential to our being able to continue the race tradition.

Please do bring your 'race-face' and pack for ANY WEATHER! Have a great race!