



Dollywood
PARKS & RESORTS

INAUGURAL
RACE

RUNNER'S GUIDE

5K

10K

**HALF
MARATHON**

**KID'S
RUN**

APRIL 25 - 26, 2026

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Message from Park President Eugene Naughton



Welcome, Runners!

I can't tell you how thrilled I am to welcome you to our very first Run Dollywood race weekend. It means so much to have you here at the starting line of what I hope will become a cherished tradition. While we look forward to many more races in the years ahead, you'll always be able to say you were part of our very first, something truly special!

It brings me genuine joy to share this experience with you here at Dollywood and in the heart of the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains. As someone who loves to run, I'm especially excited to be lacing up right alongside you for this unforgettable event. There's simply nothing like race day energy, and sharing that with you—here, surrounded by the warmth that makes Dollywood unique—makes it even more meaningful for me, and I hope for you as well.

Whether you're running the half-marathon, 10K, 5K, or Kids Run, or cheering your loved ones on, every moment of this weekend was crafted with you in mind. From the vibrant blooms of our Flower & Food Festival to the cheers at the finish line, I hope you feel the heart and soul we've poured into making this race special. As you make your way along the course, take in the sights, sounds, and flavors that make Dollywood such a joyful place. I'll be doing the same, stride by stride.

At Dollywood Parks & Resorts, we believe every moment matters, and I sincerely hope your weekend is filled with laughter, pride, and unforgettable memories—whether you're crossing the finish line or simply soaking in the atmosphere. Thank you for letting my team and me be part of your running journey and for helping us launch something new and exciting together.

Have a fantastic race! I can't wait to see you out there and celebrate this special day together.

Eugene Naughton
President, Dollywood Parks & Resorts

Welcome to Run Dollywood Race Weekend



Welcome to the inaugural Run Dollywood Race Weekend, where every mile is designed to deliver smiles, memorable moments, and a one-of-a-kind destination experience in the heart of the Smoky Mountains.

Whether you are participating in the Half-Marathon, 10K, 5K, or Kids Race, this race weekend combines the excitement of competition with the one-of-a-kind atmosphere that only Dollywood can offer. From scenic courses and family-friendly activities to live entertainment and the opportunity to enjoy the park after your race, Run Dollywood is designed for runners and their supporters to make the most of the entire weekend.

While participants are on course, spectators can enjoy live entertainment near the finish line, including music from Run Katie Run and karaoke activities for families and guests as they cheer runners across the finish line.

Race weekend begins Friday, April 24 with packet pickup and the Runner Expo, hosted at Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., where participants can collect race materials, explore vendor exhibits, and prepare for race day.

For participants who purchased the Pre-Race Meal during registration, dinner will be served inside Dollywood at the Blue Ribbon Pavilion on Saturday, April 25 at 5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m., offering runners and families a chance to gather, fuel, and prepare for race morning in a uniquely Dollywood setting. Following the meal, guests may continue enjoying the park for the remainder of the evening during normal operating hours.

This guide is designed to help you navigate every part of race weekend—from packet pickup and transportation to course maps, race day timelines, awards, and important participant information.

We are honored to welcome you to the very first Run Dollywood weekend and look forward to making this an unforgettable experience for every runner, family member, and guest.

All participants must pick up their race materials prior to race day during official packet pickup hours at Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort.

Packet Pickup/ Expo Location

Runner Expo

Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort
1210 Dollywood Resorts Boulevard
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

Friday, April 24
9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Packet Pickup Includes

- Race bib with timing device
- Participant shirt
- Race weekend materials
- Theme park tickets for those who pre-purchased with a Run Dollywood Ticket package during registration.
- Pre-Race meal voucher if purchased during registration.
- Event information

Important Pickup Information

- Participants must present a photo ID at packet pickup.
- Race bibs are assigned by participant and may not be exchanged.
- A friend or family member may collect your packet with a photocopy of your photo ID. To help keep lines moving, please limit packet pick-up to four (4) runners per person.
- Please verify your race distance before leaving packet pickup.

Race Bib Reminder

Your race bib must be worn on the front of your body and remain visible throughout the race. Timing devices must remain attached and unaltered.

Important Note

There will be **no race morning packet pickup available.**

Runner Expo

Participants are encouraged to arrive early during packet pickup to enjoy the Runner Expo at Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort, where featured partners and specialty vendors will be available throughout the day.

Featured Expo Partners

- **Exclusive Run Dollywood event merchandise**
Limited-edition merchandise created specifically for race weekend will be available while supplies last.
- **Dollywood Pre-Purchased Photo Wristbands**
If you would like to purchase race day photos with Dollywood characters, wristbands must be purchased in advance at the Dollywood merchandise booth during the Expo or at the Dollywood merchandise booth located in the Race Hub on race day. FinisherPix race course photos are included with your race registration.
- **Sparkly Soul**
Offering performance headbands and accessories designed for runners, combining comfort, function, and race-day style.
- **Sparkle Athletic**
Featuring athletic skirts, apparel, and accessories designed for comfort, movement, and standout race-day style.
- **BeeCause Charms**
Showcasing handcrafted jewelry and keepsake charms, including butterfly-inspired pieces designed to commemorate your Run Dollywood race weekend.

Packet Pickup & Runner Expo



- **Raw Threads**
Raw Threads is a sustainability-focused athleisure brand known for its fun, creative, runner-inspired designs and ultra-soft, eco-friendly performance apparel that blends style, comfort, and community
- **Dottie for Running**
Dottie for Running is a woman-owned, handcrafted apparel brand known for its whimsical, confidence-boosting running skirts and a vibrant community of runners who celebrate individuality, creativity, and joy in every mile.
- **UT Events Medic**
Sharing race-day wellness information and participant support resources to help runners prepare for the weekend.
- **AWD Dollywood Accessibility**
Our Dollywood Accessibility team will be on-site to answer questions and assist athletes with disabilities.

Pre-Race Meal Information

Participants who purchased the pre-race meal during race registration will receive a timed meal ticket for their selected seating at 5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m., along with a complimentary park admission ticket. Both items will be distributed at the Race Expo. Please note that your meal ticket does not grant park admission, you must present your park ticket for entry. Your park ticket allows admission beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, after which you may proceed to Blue Ribbon Pavilion and present your meal ticket for access to your designated dining time. Pre-race meals were purchased in advance during registration and will not be available for purchase onsite during the event.

Time	Seating	Location
5:00 PM	First Seating	Dollywood – Blue Ribbon Pavilion
6:30 PM	Second Seating	Dollywood – Blue Ribbon Pavilion

Detailed course maps for each race distance are provided in this section to help participants familiarize themselves with race routes, start locations, finish areas, water stations, and key course points before race day.

Participants are encouraged to review their specific course in advance and note important route details, including elevation changes via the Strava course links below, entertainment locations, and designated spectator viewing areas.

Strava Course Maps: <https://runsignup.com/Race/RunDollywood/Page/Course-Maps>



On-Course Entertainment & Race Experiences

Entertainment and themed character experiences will be positioned throughout each course to encourage runners and create a uniquely Dollywood race atmosphere. Entertainment locations may vary slightly based on operational needs.

Entertainment Location	April 25 5K	April 25 10K	April 26 Half-Marathon
Spotlight Bakery	Cinnamon Bread	Cinnamon Bread	Cinnamon Bread
Wildwood Grove Entrance End of Timber Canyon	Flit & Flutter Benjamin Bear	Flit & Flutter Benjamin Bear	Flit & Flutter Benjamin Bear
Grist Mill Area	Applejack/ Miss Lillian	Applejack/ Miss Lillian	Applejack/ Miss Lillian
Train Depot	Corey Zink and Company Bluegrass Band	Corey Zink and Company Bluegrass Band	Corey Zink and Company Bluegrass Band
Half-Marathon Exclusive Ride Feature	—	—	Blazing Fury / Big Bear Mountain

Half-Marathon Exclusive Ride Access Important Notice

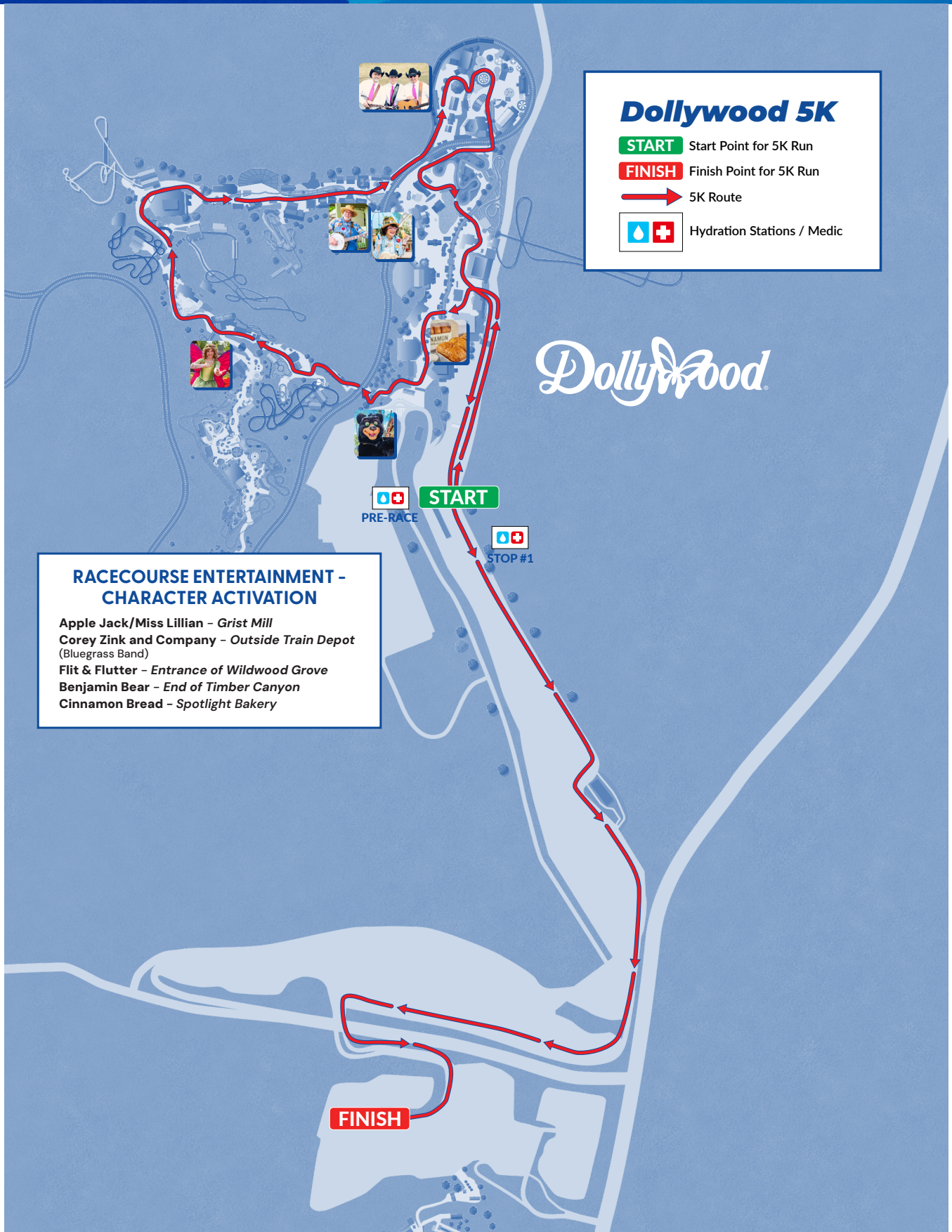
Half-Marathon participants may access Blazing Fury and Big Bear Mountain.

- Runners must reach the timing mat by the designated cutoff time.
- Those arriving after the cutoff may continue on course but will not access the ride experience.
- Ride access is limited to official Half-Marathon participants.
- Ride access is subject to operational readiness and safety conditions on race day.
 - Blazing Fury Timing is located at mile 11: Participants must be in line by 8:25.
 - Big Bear Mountain Timing Box is located at mile 11.6: Participants must be in line by 8:35.

Important Note

All courses remain subject to final operational review and may be adjusted if necessary for safety or event operations.

5K Course Map



Dollywood 5K

- START** Start Point for 5K Run
- FINISH** Finish Point for 5K Run
- 5K Route
- Hydration Stations / Medic

RACECOURSE ENTERTAINMENT - CHARACTER ACTIVATION

- Apple Jack/Miss Lillian - Grist Mill
- Corey Zink and Company - Outside Train Depot (Bluegrass Band)
- Flit & Flutter - Entrance of Wildwood Grove
- Benjamin Bear - End of Timber Canyon
- Cinnamon Bread - Spotlight Bakery



10K Course Map



Half-Marathon Course Map



Dollywood Half-Marathon

- START** Start Point for Half-Marathon
- FINISH** Finish Point for Half-Marathon
- Half Marathon Route
- Hydration Stations / Medic

RACECOURSE ENTERTAINMENT - CHARACTER ACTIVATION/RIDES

- Apple Jack/Miss Lillian - Grist Mill
- Corey Zink and Company - Outside Train Depot (Bluegrass Band)
- Flit & Flutter - Entrance of Wildwood Grove
- Blazing Fury
- Big Bear Mountain
- Benjamin Bear - End of Timber Canyon
- Cinnamon Bread - Spotlight Bakery

To ensure runner safety and allow roads and park operations to open on schedule, Run Dollywood maintains a minimum course pace requirement of 16 minutes per mile for all timed races.

Participants who are unable to maintain this pace may be asked to exit the course.

Butterfly Balloon Sweep Team

Run Dollywood will utilize a Butterfly Balloon Sweep Team to indicate the final allowable pace on course. Members of this team will travel the course carrying visible butterfly balloons and will maintain the official 16-minute-per-mile pace.

If the Butterfly Balloon Sweep Team passes a participant:

- The runner is considered behind the required pace
- Course officials may instruct the participant to exit the race course
- Transportation may be provided back to the Race Hub if necessary

Participants are encouraged to maintain a steady pace throughout the race to remain ahead of the sweep team.

Half-Marathon Timing Requirement for Dollywood Park Access

To maintain course operations, Half-Marathon participants must return to Dollywood's Splash Country timing mat by 7:50 a.m. If a participant does not cross the timing mat by the required cutoff time, they will not be permitted to enter Dollywood Theme Park for the remainder of the racecourse. Those who do not meet this cutoff will be instructed to exit the course and proceed directly to the finish line, where they may still collect their race medal. The Half-Marathon Cutoff location is indicated on the Half-Marathon Course map.



Race Day Key Times



Participants should train to maintain at least a **16-minute-per-mile pace** to ensure they remain ahead of the Butterfly Balloon Sweep Team and complete the course within event operating timelines.

Participants should review race-day timing carefully and allow sufficient time for arrival, parking, transportation, security screening, gear check, and movement to the start area.

Saturday, April 25 — 5K & 10K

Race Timing	5K	10K	Kids Fun Run
Tolls Open for Parking	5 a.m.	7 a.m.	7 a.m.
Suggested Arrival at Parking	5:15 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
Suggested Arrival at Start Line	5:30 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Race Start Time	6:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Gear Check Opens	5:15 a.m.	7:00 a.m.	NA
Gear Check Closes	6:15 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	NA
Start Corral Closes	6:25 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	10:55 a.m.
Awards Begin	7:35 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	NA
Course Time Limit	50 min	1 hour 40 min	20 Min

Sunday, April 26 — Half-Marathon

Race Timing	Half-Marathon
Tolls Open for Parking	4 a.m.
Race Start Time	5:30 a.m.
Suggested Arrival at Parking	4:15 a.m.
Suggested Arrival at Race Hub	4:30 a.m.
Gear Check Opens	4:30 a.m.
Gear Check Closes	5:20 a.m.
Start Corral Closes	5.25 a.m.
Awards Begin	8:15 a.m.
Course Time Limit	3 hours 30 min

Important Arrival Reminder

Participants should allow minimum of 60 minutes from parking arrival to reaching the Race Hub, accounting for shuttle transportation, walking distance, security screening, gear check, and movement to the start corrals.

Important Timing Notice

Participants must be in their designated start area prior to race start. Late arrivals may not be permitted to enter once corrals close.





The Run Dollywood Race Hub serves as the central gathering location for race morning operations, participant services, entertainment, and spectator viewing throughout race weekend.

This is where participants and spectators will gather before and after each event and where runners reunite with family and friends following their race.

Important Spectator Information

- The Race Hub is the only designated spectator viewing location during Run Dollywood race events
- Spectators are not permitted anywhere along the racecourse
- The Race Hub is the only location for participants to reunite with friends and family after their race
- Spectators must remain within the Race Hub and designated viewing areas throughout race operations

Security Screening

All guests entering the Race Hub, including participants and spectators, must enter through security screening upon arrival. Guests are encouraged to allow additional time for screening before entering the event area.

What You Will Find Inside the Race Hub

The Race Hub includes:

- Start and finish line access for designated race events. (Except 5K Start)
- Stage with live entertainment and race announcement
- Spectator Tent and designated viewing area
- AWD Check-In Tent
- Food trucks
- Step-and-repeat photo area
- Official Run Dollywood merchandise tent
- Gear Check area (Except 5K Start)
- Portable Restrooms
- Medical support and race operations staff

Participant Services

Participants will use the Race Hub for:

- Pre-race staging (Except 5K Start)
- Gear check retrieval
- Post-race recovery
- Meeting family and guests after finishing

Food & Refreshments

Post-race food service includes:

- Post-race snacks for 5K, 10K, and Kids Race participants
- Post-race meal service for Half-Marathon participants
- Food trucks offering food and beverage items for spectator purchase

Entertainment & Family Experience

While participants are on course, spectators may enjoy:

- Live entertainment from the Race Hub stage
- Family activities – Karaoke
- Photo opportunities
- Kids Activity Tent

Tram Service to Dollywood

After race activities, participants and spectators may board tram service from Tram Stop E to travel to Dollywood and continue enjoying the day.

The Race Hub serves as the central transition point between race activities and park entry.

Race weekend parking and transportation are designed to move participants efficiently to the Race Hub and start areas. As part of our inaugural Run Dollywood Race Weekend, parking will be complimentary for all participants and spectators.

Guests staying at Dollywood Resorts should review resort shuttle instructions before reviewing participant parking details.

Before You Arrive: Identify Your Transportation Type

- Dollywood Resort Participant or Spectator Trolley
- Participant Parking
- Spectator Parking

Resort Guest Transportation

Guests staying at Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort and Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa will use dedicated race weekend shuttle transportation to access the Race Hub.

Important Shuttle Registration Required

- All resort participants and spectators must pre-register for a designated shuttle departure time to support smooth race morning operations
- Shuttle time selection will take place at resort check-in
- Guests will receive a wristband or ticket for their assigned trolley departure time
- Guests who miss their scheduled time must take the last available shuttle
- A registered shuttle time is required to board resort transportation

Shuttle Departure Times:

Saturday April 25: Resort Transportation Start Timing

5K (5K start time is 6:30 a.m.)

Departure Time DreamMore	Departure Time HeartSong	Arrival Time DreamMore	Arrival Time HeartSong
4:25 a.m.	4:30 a.m.	4:30 a.m.	4:35 a.m.
4:35 a.m.	4:40 a.m.	4:40 a.m.	4:45 a.m.
4:45 a.m.	4:50 a.m.	4:50 a.m.	4:55 a.m.
4:55 a.m.	5 a.m.	5 a.m.	5:05 a.m.
5:05 a.m.	5:10 a.m.	5:10 a.m.	5:15 a.m.
5:15 a.m.	5:20 a.m.	5:20 a.m.	5:25 a.m.
5:25 a.m.	5:30 a.m.	5:30 a.m.	5:35 a.m.
5:35 a.m.	5:40 a.m.	5:40 a.m.	5:45 a.m.

Saturday April 25: Resort Transportation Start Timing

10K (10K start time is 8:30 AM)

Departure Time DreamMore	Departure Time HeartSong	Arrival Time DreamMore	Arrival Time HeartSong
7:05 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	7:15 a.m.
7:15 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
7:25 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	7:35 a.m.
7:35 a.m.	7:40 a.m.	7:40 a.m.	7:45 a.m.

Sunday April 26: Resort Transportation Start Timing
Half-Marathon (Half-Marathon start time is 5:30 a.m.)

Departure Time DreamMore	Departure Time HeartSong	Arrival Time DreamMore	Arrival Time HeartSong
3:25 a.m.	3:30 a.m.	3:30 a.m.	3:35 a.m.
3:35 a.m.	3:4 a.m.	3:40 a.m.	3:45 a.m.
3:45 a.m.	3:50 a.m.	3:50 a.m.	3:55 a.m.
3:55 a.m.	4 a.m.	4 a.m.	4:05 a.m.
4:05 a.m.	4:10 a.m.	4:10 a.m.	4:15 a.m.
4:15 a.m.	4:20 a.m.	4:20 a.m.	4:25 a.m.
4:25 a.m.	4:30 a.m.	4:30 a.m.	4:35 a.m.
4:35 a.m.	4:40 a.m.	4:4 a.m.	4:45 a.m.

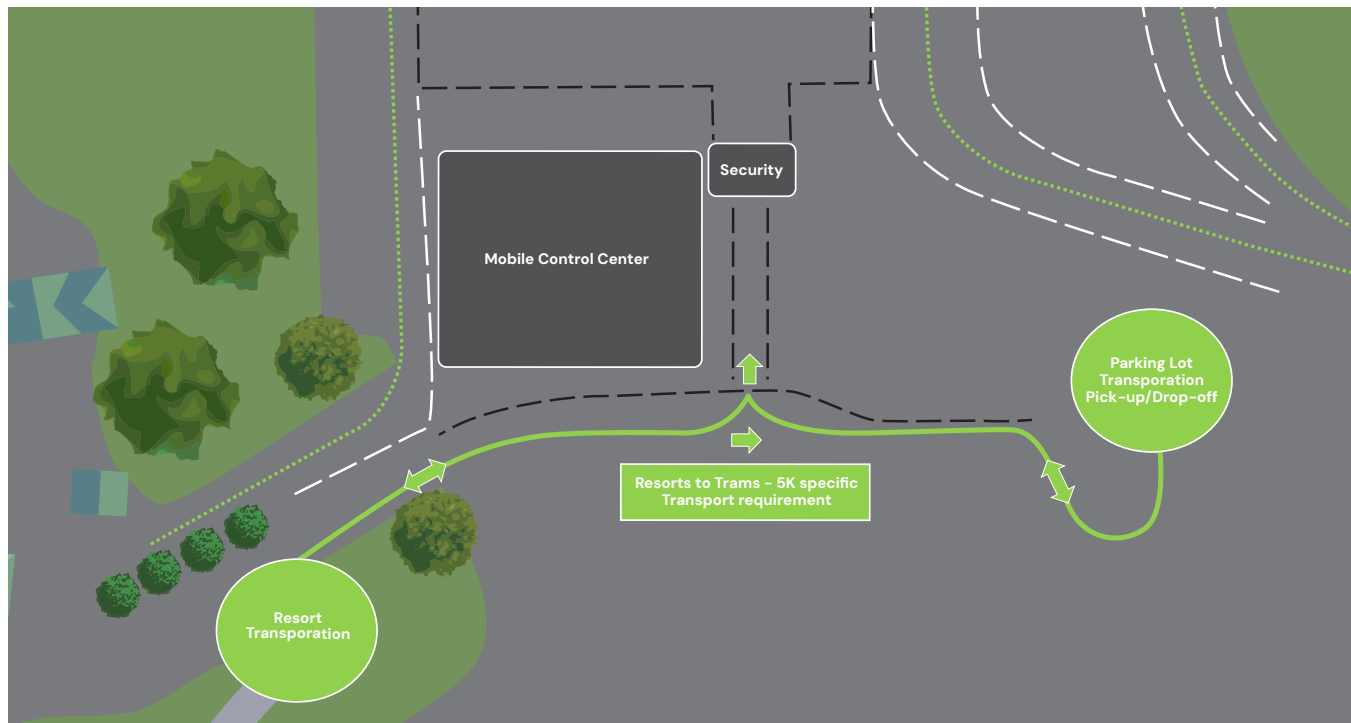
Trolley Process

- Trolley pickup will occur directly at each resort
- Guests will be transported to the entrance of the Race Hub
- Guests should arrive early for their assigned trolley departure

5K Resort Guest Important Note

Arrival Reminder: Resort guests should allow ample time for shuttle boarding, any required tram transfers, security screening, gear check, and travel to their designated start area.

- Resort 5K participants will be dropped at the Race Hub
- From the Race Hub, take the tram from Tram Stop E to Tram Stop C
- Walk from Tram Stop C to the 5K start line in the Dollywood parking lot
- The 5K start is separate from the Race Hub finish—plan extra time to reach the start line



Participant Arrival Guidance

Participants should allow 45 to 60 minutes from parking arrival to reaching the Race Hub, accounting for parking, shuttle transportation if applicable, walking distance, security screening, gear check, and movement to the start corrals.

Arriving early is strongly recommended for all race distances.



5K Participant Parking & Arrival

Saturday, April 25 | Race Start Time: 6:30 a.m.

- 5K participants should park in Lots P & F (tolls open at 5:00 a.m.)
- The 5K start line is located in the Dollywood parking area and is separate from the Race Hub finish
- Participants will walk approximately 2,200 feet from parking to the start line
- Allow time for parking, walking, security screening, and gear check
- Plan to arrive early—allow a minimum of 60 minutes from parking to the start line

Gear Check (5K Participants)

- Located at the 5K start line
- Do not leave items unattended outside designated areas
- Gear will be transported to the Race Hub for pickup after the race

Finish Location

- All 5K participants will finish at the Race Hub
- Post-race activities, entertainment, and gear retrieval will take place here

5K Spectator Parking & Finish Line Access

- Spectators should park in Lots P & F
- Allow extra time to reach the Race Hub, especially during peak arrival times
- Event staff and signage will assist with directions and tram boarding

Tram Service (Recommended)

- Walk approximately 3,600 feet from Lots P & F to Tram Stop C
- Board tram service to the Race Hub
- Trams run continuously; allow 10–15 minutes per route (timing may vary)

Walking Option

- Spectators may walk approximately 7,800 feet from Lots P & F to the Race Hub
- Walking access will close at 6:15 a.m.

ECV Rentals

- Advance online reservations are recommended
- Rentals open at 5 a.m.

10K Participant Parking & Arrival

Saturday, April 25 | Race Start Time: 8:30 a.m.

- 10K participants should park in Lots P & F
- The 10K start and finish are both located in the Race Hub
- Allow a minimum of 60 minutes from parking to arrival at the Race Hub

Access to the Race Hub (Tram Recommended)

- Walk approximately 3,600 feet from Lots P & F to Tram Stop C
- Board tram service to the Race Hub
- Trams run continuously; allow 10–15 minutes per route (timing may vary based on traffic and capacity)

Gear Check (10K Participants)

- Located in the Race Hub prior to race start
- Allow up to 30 minutes for gear check lines
- Gear check closes 15 minutes prior to start time
- Items can be retrieved in the designated area after the race

ECV Rentals

- Advance online reservations are recommended
- Saturday rentals open at 5 a.m.

10K Spectator Parking & Finish Line Access

- Spectators should park in Lots P & F
- The 10K start and finish are both located in the Race Hub
- Allow extra time to reach the Race Hub, especially during peak finish times
- Event staff and signage will assist with directions and tram boarding

Tram Service

- Walk approximately 3,600 feet from Lots P & F to Tram Stop C
- Board tram service to the Race Hub
- Trams run continuously; allow 10–15 minutes per route (timing may vary)

ECV Rentals

- Advance online reservations are recommended
- Saturday rentals open at 5 a.m.

Kids Race Participant Parking & Arrival

Saturday, April 25 | Start Time: 11 a.m.

- Participants should park in Lots P & F (designated for Saturday race activities)
- The Kids Race start and finish are both located in the Race Hub
- Plan to arrive early—allow a minimum of 60 minutes from parking to the Race Hub

Access to the Race Hub

Tram Service (Recommended)

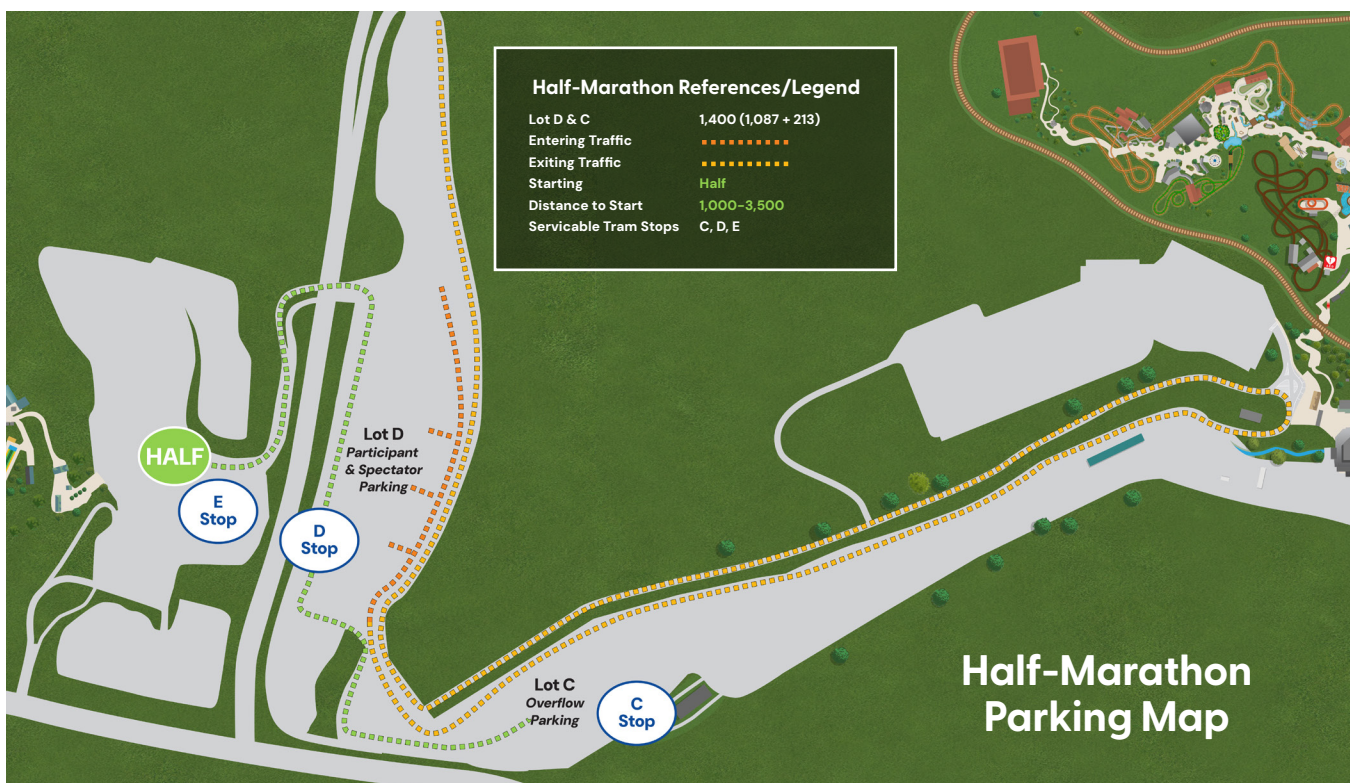
- Walk approximately 3,600 feet from Lots P & F to Tram Stop C
- Board tram service to the Race Hub
- Trams run continuously; allow 10–15 minutes per route (timing may vary)

Walking Option

- Families may walk approximately 7,800 feet from Lots P & F to the Race Hub

Arrival Reminder

- Allow time for tram boarding, walking distance, security screening, and movement to the start area



Half-Marathon Participant Parking & Arrival

Sunday, April 26 | Race Start Time: 5:30 a.m.

- Participants should park in Lot D (primary); Lot C will be used for overflow if needed
- Parking tolls open at 4 a.m.
- Plan to arrive early—allow a minimum of 60 minutes from parking to the Race Hub

Access to the Race Hub

- The Half-Marathon start and finish are both located in the Race Hub

Tram Service (Recommended)

- Board tram service at Tram Stop D for transportation to the Race Hub
- Trams run continuously; timing may vary based on traffic and capacity

Walking Option

- Participants may walk from Lot D to the Race Hub (approximately 1,000–3,600 feet depending on parking location)
- Walking access will close at 5 a.m.

Arrival Reminder

- Allow time for tram boarding, walking distance, security screening, gear check, and movement to start corrals

Half-Marathon Spectator Parking & Access

- Spectators should park in Lot D (Lot C available for overflow)
- Allow extra time to reach the Race Hub prior to expected finish times

Access to the Race Hub

Tram Service (Recommended)

- Board tram service at Tram Stop D to the Race Hub
- Trams run continuously; timing may vary based on traffic and capacity

Walking Option

- Spectators may walk from Lot D to the Race Hub
- Walking access will close at 5 a.m.



A dedicated Gear Check Tent is located in the Race Hub for participant convenience. Only the provided gear check bag will be accepted. Items will be secured and retrieved at the finish; the event is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

- Allow up to 30 minutes for gear check lines
- Gear check closes 15 minutes prior to race start
- Items must fit within the 11" x 16" x 4" bag
- Items outside the provided bag or personal bags will not be accepted
- Bring only essential items and clearly label all belongings

5K Gear Check

- The 5K features a dedicated gear check at the start line
- Participants may check items prior to the race at the 5K start area
- Checked bags will be transported by event staff to the Race Hub Gear Check Tent
- Items can be retrieved after finishing in the Race Hub

Gear Check Times

Race Timing	5K	10K	Half Marathon	Kids Fun Run
Race Start Time	6:30 AM	8:30 AM	5:30 AM	11:00 AM
Gear Check Opens	5:15 AM	7:00 AM	4:30 AM	N/A
Gear Check Closes	6:15 AM	8:15 AM	5:20 AM	N/A

Security Screening / Prohibited Items

Arrive Early for Security Screening

All participants, spectators, and guests entering the Race Hub will pass through security screening prior to accessing race weekend activities.

To help ensure smooth entry, guests are encouraged to arrive early and limit personal belongings to essential items only.

Security Screening

Security screening will take place at designated entry points to the Race Hub.

Please have bags open and ready for inspection upon arrival.

All guests are subject to screening before entering race event areas.

Permitted Bags

Only small personal items and approved gear check bags are recommended.

Participants using gear check should follow all bag size requirements outlined in the Gear Check section.

Prohibited Items

The following items are not permitted inside the Race Hub or race event areas:

- Large bags or oversized backpacks
- Coolers
- Alcohol
- Glass containers
- Weapons of any kind
- Drones
- Outside tents or large chairs
- Illegal substances
- Any item deemed unsafe by event security staff

Strollers

Strollers are permitted for spectators in designated areas but must remain clear of race operations, start lines, finish areas, and participant flow zones.

Important Note

All prohibited items must be returned to vehicles or discarded prior to entry.

Event staff and security personnel reserve the right to restrict additional items as needed for guest safety and race operations. Dollywood standard security policies apply in designated event areas.

AWD Participation Information

Important Advance Notice

Participants requiring ADA accommodations are strongly encouraged to contact Dollywood Accessibility at least one week prior to race day to discuss accommodations, device approvals, and participation needs.

dwaccessibility@dollywood.com

Advance communication helps ensure proper planning and support on race weekend.

Athletes with ADA Requirements

Athletes with disabilities will have access to a designated Athletes with Disabilities Tent located in the staging area.

This area will be available for:

- Pre-race preparation
- Storage of approved personal accommodation items not required during participation
- Race-day assistance from event staff

Items such as prosthetics, day chairs, and mobility devices may be stored in the tent during the race and must be picked up within one hour of race conclusion.

Start Procedures

All participants will begin with their scheduled start group unless a start adjustment request is submitted and approved in advance by Run Dollywood officials.

Approved Devices

The following devices are permitted during participation:

- Canes
- Crutches
- Trekking poles
- Walkers

Requests for alternate devices should be submitted in advance to Dollywood Accessibility.

Service Animals

Service animals are permitted on course with prior approval from Dollywood Accessibility.

Participants must present confirmation at race registration to receive staging area and course access approval.

Push Rim Wheelchairs

Customized racing wheelchairs may be used by athletes with physical disabilities.

Participants must:

- Check in at the Athletes with Disabilities Tent
- Wear a safety helmet
- Use a safety restraint
- Have front and rear lights
- Complete an equipment safety check before race start

Handcycles

Three-wheel arm-powered handcycles are permitted for approved participants.

Participants must:

- Check in at the Athletes with Disabilities Tent
- Wear a helmet and safety restraint
- Have front and rear lights
- Pass a safety inspection prior to start

Human Guides & Wheelchair Pushers

Human guides and wheelchair pushers will not receive an official race bib.

They must:

- Wear a designated companion bib
- Sign a waiver
- Complete packet pickup during official pickup hours

Wheelchair Duo Teams

A Wheelchair Duo consists of a runner or walker pushing a non-ambulatory participant using a customized racing wheelchair.

Requirements include:

- Safety inspection prior to start
- Helmet and restraints for wheelchair participant
- Front and rear lights
- Tether connection from pusher to wheelchair

The pushing participant does not pay a race registration fee and will participate without an official race bib.

Human Guides for Athletes Requiring Navigation Support

Athletes who are blind, have low vision, are deaf, neurodivergent, or require navigation support may have one registered Human Guide.

Guides assist with:

- Navigation
- Safety
- Visual or audio communication during the race

The Human Guide does not pay a race registration fee and will participate without an official race bib.

Medical support will be available throughout race weekend to assist participants, spectators and guests as needed.

Medical Support

UT Events Medic will be on site throughout race weekend to provide medical assistance and respond to participant needs.

Medical personnel will be positioned in the Race Hub and along the course as needed within the hydration stations.

Participants requiring immediate assistance during the race should notify the nearest race official, volunteer or medical team member.

Hydration Stations

Water stops will be located along each race route to support participants throughout the course.

Please refer to the course maps for exact hydration station locations by race distance.

Emergency Assistance

If assistance is needed during the race:

- Alert the nearest volunteer or course official
- Move safely to the side of the course when possible
- Follow instructions from medical personnel

Important Reminder

Participants are encouraged to hydrate before arrival, during race activities, and after finishing.

Important Policies & Safety Guidelines

Costumes

Costumes are welcome during Run Dollywood events and are encouraged as part of the race weekend experience, provided they remain family-friendly and safe for all participants.

Costume Guidelines

- Costumes must be family-friendly and appropriate for all ages
- Costumes may not be obstructive, offensive, or unsafe
- Masks or facial coverings that conceal identity are not permitted
- Costumes may not drag on the ground
- Real or simulated weapons and sharp objects are not permitted
- Costumes must not restrict movement or interfere with other participants
- Costumes must not block vision or create tripping hazards

Participants who do not meet these guidelines may be refused entry or asked to modify their costume before participating.

Headphones & Earbuds

Headphones and earbuds are permitted during the race.

Participants are encouraged to keep volume low enough to hear:

- Race announcements
- Course instructions
- Medical or safety alerts
- On-course entertainment

Dollywood Rules & Security Policies

Yes — standard Dollywood park rules and policies apply to all race participants and spectators.

All guests entering race event areas, including:

- Start area
- Finish area
- Recovery area
- Spectator areas

will be subject to security screening upon arrival.

Participants and guests are encouraged to review current Dollywood policies prior to race weekend.

Awards, Results & Butterfly Challenge

Butterfly Challenge Recognition and Award

- Recognizes participants who complete all three race distances during Run Dollywood Race Weekend
- Only participants registered for the Butterfly Challenge are eligible (no race-day entry)
- Completion is verified through official race timing using your assigned bib
- Finish all events to earn a Butterfly Challenge commemorative medal
- Proceed to the Awards Tent after the Half-Marathon for verification of challenge completion and to collect your commemorative medal.

Overall Awards

Awards will be presented for each race distance (Half-Marathon, 10K, 5K):

- Top 3 Overall Female Finishers
- Top 3 Overall Male Finishers

Age Group Awards

Awards will recognize the top finishers in each division for every race distance:

Age Group Divisions

- 12 & Under
- 13–19
- 20–29
- 30–39
- 40–49
- 50–59
- 60–69
- 70+

Kids Race Recognition

- All participants will receive a Run Dollywood butterfly keepsake on a lanyard with a clip, perfect for attaching to a race bag or personal item
- The Kids Race is a participation event and does not include competitive awards

Awards	5K	10K	Half-Marathon
Awards Start Time	7:35 AM	10:15 AM	8:15 AM

Official race results will be available after each event on the RunSignup Run Dollywood results platform. Participants should review final posted results for placement and award eligibility.

Scan the QR code below or text R21826 to 49514.



Race Photos & Photo Redemption

Race weekend will include two separate photo experiences for participants and guests.

Please note that Finisher Pix race photography and Dollywood park photography operate separately and use different photo access and redemption processes.

Finisher Pix Race Photos – included with your race registration

Race photography provided through FinisherPix will focus on official race moments captured along the course and at designated finish locations.

This includes:

- On-course running photos
- Finish line photos
- Moving race images captured during participation

Photo Access & Redemption

- Finisher Pix photo redemption details will be provided following race.
- Participants should retain race bib numbers, as bib identification may be used to match race images.

Dollywood Photo Experiences

Separate photo opportunities will also be available during race weekend with Dollywood character experiences and designated themed locations.

This includes:

- Character meet-and-greet photos
- Select themed photo opportunities inside race weekend areas

Photo Purchase Information

- Dollywood photo wrist bands are separate from race photography and will be available for purchase at the Dollywood Merchandise booth during the Race Expo or at the Race Hub.

After crossing the finish line, participants and guests are encouraged to enjoy the Race Hub and continue their Run Dollywood weekend throughout Dollywood.

Finish Line Area

The Race Hub finish area will include:

- Finisher refreshments
- Gear check retrieval
- Live entertainment
- Spectator gathering areas

Participants should follow event signage and staff direction as they move through the finish area.

Tram Service to Dollywood

Guests wishing to enter Dollywood from the Race Hub should board tram service at **Tram Stop E**.

Tram service will transport participants and spectators from the Race Hub to the Dollywood entrance.

Guests are encouraged to allow additional time for tram boarding during peak post-race periods.

Theme Park Admission Important Information

Race registration does not automatically include Dollywood Theme Park admission unless a race package with park tickets was selected during registration.

Participants who did not purchase a package including park admission must purchase a separate Dollywood ticket for themselves.

All spectators and guests must also have a valid Dollywood admission ticket to enter the park.

Ticket Pickup for Participants with Park Admission Packages

Participants who purchased a race package including Dollywood admission may pick up their theme park tickets only during official packet pickup on Friday, April 24.

Ticket Pickup Location

Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort

Ticket Pickup Time

Friday, April 24

9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Pre-purchased ticket package tickets will be available only during packet pickup on Friday, April 24.

There is no option for early ticket pickup prior to packet pickup hours.

There will be no race-day bib pickup or ticket pickup on race morning.

How Park Admission Packages Work:

Some registration packages include a two-day Dollywood Theme Park ticket.

These tickets:

- Allow admission on any two days within five consecutive operating days
- Are valid for visits between April 24 – April 29, 2026
- First valid entry date is Friday, April 24, 2026

Please note: Dollywood will be closed on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Guests are encouraged to review the official operating calendar prior to planning park visits.

Tickets for Friends & Family

Additional Dollywood Theme Park tickets for friends and family may be purchased by visiting Dollywood or calling 1-800-DOLLYWOOD.

Spectator Experience

Spectators may remain in the Race Hub to enjoy entertainment and cheer on runners as finishers arrive.

Live music from Run Katie Run and family karaoke activities will continue near the finish line during designated race periods.

Weather & Event Operations

Run Dollywood races will take place rain or shine. The safety of participants, volunteers, spectators and staff remains the highest priority throughout race weekend.

In the event of lightning, severe weather, or other unsafe conditions, the Run Dollywood Event Management Team, in consultation with local law enforcement and emergency services, may delay, modify, or cancel race activities.

Weather Response May Include:

- Delayed race starts
- Temporary race holds
- Course modifications
- Event cancellation if conditions are unsafe

If conditions allow, delays may be used to provide time for weather to clear before safely resuming race activities.

Cancellation & Postponement Policy

If an event is cancelled in its entirety due to severe weather or circumstances beyond the control of event organizers, no refunds will be issued.

If race weekend is postponed or rescheduled, all registrations will automatically transfer to the new event date.

No refunds will be issued for:

- Weather-related delays
- Partial course cancellations
- Early race termination after the event has started

Race Communication

All important race updates, including weather alerts, timing changes, or schedule adjustments, will be communicated through:

- Email notifications
- Text message alerts

Participants are strongly encouraged to opt in to race messaging during registration and monitor spam or junk folders for official event communications.

Refunds & Registration Policy

Full refunds, less processing fees, are available through January 1, 2026.

After January 1, 2026, registrations become non-refundable.

Important Registration Note

No discounts will be offered for Run Dollywood Race Weekend due to limited participant capacity for the inaugural event.



Before You Arrive

- Review your race distance parking and transportation instructions carefully
- Allow extra time for parking, shuttle movement, security screening, and gear check
- Bring only essential items
- Have your race bib and participant materials ready

Packet Pickup Reminder

There is no race-day bib pickup.

All participants must complete packet pickup during official packet pickup hours at Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort.

Timing & Course Requirements

Participants must maintain the required 16-minute-per-mile pace in timed events.

Runners passed by the Butterfly Balloon Sweep Team may be removed from the course.

Half-Marathon participants must reach the designated timing checkpoint by the required cutoff time to continue into Dollywood.

Theme Park Admission Reminder

Race registration does not include Dollywood admission unless purchased as part of a qualifying package.

All spectators entering the park must also hold valid admission.

Safety Reminder

Please follow all race staff, security personnel, tram operators, and volunteers throughout race weekend.

Stay Connected

Participants should monitor official race email and text updates for final event information prior to arrival.

FOR FULL Run Dollywood Race FAQ please visit:



Closing Message

Thank you for being part of the inaugural **Run Dollywood Race Weekend**.

We are honored to welcome you to a race experience designed to deliver smiles, memorable moments and a one-of-a-kind weekend in the Smoky Mountains.