

We are looking forward to seeing you at **Hiawassee Half Marathon & 5K!** It's time to make final preparations for the big day. Be sure to read the official athlete guide below.

Race Details

Race Day: Saturday, March 14

Start Times:

- **Half Marathon - 7:30 AM**
- **5K - 8:30 AM**

Location: 19 South Main Street, Hiawassee, GA

Please arrive at the Start/Finish area at least 10 minutes before your race for a brief pre-race meeting.

Please allow extra travel time

There is significant construction between Blairsville and Young Harris, and delays are likely.

Also allow about 10 minutes to park and walk to the start area. **Both races will start on time.**

WELCOME, RUNNERS!

Welcome to the inaugural **Hiawassee Half Marathon and 5K!** We're thrilled to host you in Georgia's mountain and lake paradise.

Your participation directly supports Hikeawassee, a free program that shuttles Appalachian Trail thru-hikers into the city so they can access the resources they need to continue their 2,000-mile journey north to Maine.

This race is hosted by the Hiawassee Downtown Development Authority with the assistance of our volunteer Race Director.

PACKET PICK-UP

Avoid race-morning lines by grabbing your packet early!

Friday, 3/13

3:00 – 6:00 PM – Inside Trailful Outdoor Co. – 75 N Main St.

** Enjoy 10% off at Trailful with your race bib all weekend (Fri - Sun) **

Saturday, 3/14

6:00 AM – At the race start, on the stage in the Hiawassee Town Square

HALF MARATHON COURSE

The half marathon features an **11-mile primary loop** with **three short sub-loops** at:

- Mayor's Park
- Lake Chatuge Rec Area
- GMF Campground

These sub-loops may include steeper, slick, or uneven sections, please use caution.

Half Marathon Time Cut-Off

Runners must reach the **Lake Chatuge Rec Area Aid Station (mile 8) by 9:56 AM** (average pace of 18 min 19 sec).

Anyone arriving after the cut-off will be transported back to the Start/Finish area.

Aid Stations

There are 4 aid stations on the half marathon route, at approximately miles 2, 6, 8, and 11. All aid stations will have water, electrolytes, and snacks. The aid stations at miles 2, 6, and 11 have access to restrooms. These restrooms are located slightly off the course, not directly on the course.

See the Half Marathon route map with amenities below.

Hiawassee Half Marathon Route



5K COURSE

The 5K follows the same initial course as the half marathon. Runners will turn around after completing the Mayor's Park sub-loop. This sub-loop may include uneven sections, please use caution.

There is no time cut-off for the 5K course. There is one aid station with at the halfway point. This location will have water, electrolytes, snacks, and a restroom.

See the 5K route map with amenities below.

Hiawassee 5K Route



SPONSORS & SWAG

Huge thanks to our race sponsors:

Altra • Trailful Outdoor Co. • GUTS • Nourish Vacation Homes • Moon Pie

Every runner receives a race shirt. **Shirt sizes are first-come, first-served**—please pick up your packet early (ideally Friday).

Post-race perks include:

- Bananas
- A custom finisher medal
- A Moon Pie (Happy Pi Day!)
- Altra shoe demos - try a pair for a jog or even race in them

Available for purchase the finish line:

- Breakfast from Papa Kash Food Truck
- Coffee Drinks from VC Coffee
- Cookies from Moonlight Bakery

Remember that you can get 10% off at Trailful all weekend by showing your race bib!

PRIZES

The **Overall Men & Women** winners of both races will win a pair of shoes from Altra (4 pairs total).

The **Top 3 Overall Men & Women**, and **Top Men & Women Master (40+) and Grand Master (50+)** of each race will receive special medals and couple extra swag items from our friends at Dr. Mak's Superfoods, Platypus, and PackTowel.

Note: There are no podium age group awards and no duplication of awards.

GRATITUDE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

This race would not be possible without our incredible volunteers. Please show them some love out on the course - they give their time and energy make this event happen!

PARKING

Parking is limited—**please carpool when possible**. Parking attendants will guide you.

Primary parking location:

In the former Carquest / Save-A-Lot parking lot
238 N Main St, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Once full, **overflow parking** will open at:

McConnell Baptist Church
84 Church St, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Parking is free.

Please use caution crossing roads—crossing guards will be present.

REFUND / TRANSFER POLICY

This is a **FUNdraiser**, and we follow a **no refunds / no transfers** policy.

Running with another participant's bib is not allowed.

Please don't make us say no—we promise the RD is a good dude, and it makes him sad.

IMPACT SURVEY

Please fill out this economic impact survey before or after the race! It helps us immensely in measuring the positive impact this event brings to our community.

Fill out the survey here: <https://forms.gle/Jz3Bfig5LwEocRYu8>

SEE YOU ON SATURDAY!

Looking forward to an amazing inaugural year.

Shawn – Race Director

Lily – Hiawassee DDA Director