

Welcome to Race Week!

APRIL 22-24, 2022

Welcome to the 35th Annual Big Sur Marathon weekend of events! This composite race weekend instructions for the 21-Miler covers the race expo, packet pick-up, special events before race morning, race morning transportation, the start, the course, the finish line, and post-race activities. In short - it's everything you need to know about race weekend! On behalf of the Big Sur Marathon events committee, board, staff, and team, we look forward to seeing you soon and hope you have an amazing experience.



Important Note About Your Entry If You Are Unable to Run:

All race distances are full. Downgrades to shorter distances, transfers, deferrals, or refunds are not available. You may no longer sell your entry or give it to anyone else. If you purchased a registration refund policy through the Protect Group when you registered for the race and are unable to participate due to a covered reason, you may wish to apply for a refund through the Protect Group. This is a third-party company that handles refund applications for those who purchased their product. If you are unsure if you purchased this product when you registered, please review your Haku participant account or your original registration confirmation email. account.

The Big Sur Marathon office does not provide any refunds or process any refund applications. If you do not attend the race, you can consider your entry fee a tax-deductible contribution to our non-profit organization. Our federal non-profit tax ID number is 77-0048388. We use funds earned through or donated to our events to help fund programs and services to improve the health of our community, particularly for youth.

HEALTH & FITNESS EXPO / BIB PICK UP

The Health & Fitness Expo is Friday, April 22, from noon to 6 PM and Saturday, April 23, from 9:30 AM to 6 PM at the Monterey Conference Center, 1 Portola Plaza, downtown Monterey. The Expo is FREE and open to the public. Masks are required to be worn in the expo.

Free COVID testing will be available in front of the Monterey Conference Center during the Expo hours. We invite you to [register in advance](#) to speed up testing. Testing is not required.

Bibs and shirts must be picked up in person at the Expo. Please bring your photo ID. You should have received your check-in pass (with bib number) by email already. Another will be sent the Thursday before the race. If you are unable to attend the expo, please complete a [Packet Pick-Up Authorization](#) for someone else to get your bib and shirt. Marathon Relay captains or team members do not need pick-up authorization forms to get bibs and shirts for their teammates.

Because we try to minimize our event's environmental impact, we do not hand out bags filled with paper promotional materials or product samples. You will receive a link to our electronic virtual goodie bag and race program in the next few days.

BUS TICKETS

Marathon runners must visit the Transportation Desk (in the same room as race bibs at the Expo) for a bus ticket to the start. [Your bus pick-up location](#) may depend on where you are staying the night before the race.

Entrants in the Marathon Relay, 21-Miler, and 11-Miler will get their bus ticket when they get their bib. Entrants in the 12K or 5K do not use a bus to get to the start of their event.

CUPLESS OPT-IN PICK-UP

Join the Big Sur Marathon Foundation and HydraPak in our efforts to reduce single-use waste by pledging to run a cupless race. This year, all participants in the 2022 12K will receive a HydraPak reusable cup to use in their race. In addition, the first 4,000 participants in our other race distances are encouraged to take the cupless pledge and receive a custom Big Sur Marathon branded HydraPak reusable SpeedCup for use at aid stations. Cups will be available at the HydraPak booth in the Expo. You may also take the pledge in person at the Expo, but please note that only the first 4,000 participants to opt-in will receive a complimentary Speedcup. Hydration systems including Speedcups will also be available for purchase at the Expo.

CLINIC SCHEDULE

During Saturday's Health & Fitness Expo, we will host a full day of free race clinics beginning at 10 AM. All clinics are hosted in the Steinbeck Ballroom, located on the third floor of the Monterey Conference Center (up the escalators to the right inside the front doors). From tips about how to run your best race and inspiring runner stories to a panel of the state of women's running, our programming has something for everyone. [View the full clinic schedule.](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Pasta Party, Saturday, April 23, 4:30 PM or 6:00 PM

Enjoy a tasty carbohydrate-rich meal and meet fellow runners at the official Big Sur Pasta Party in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott, across the street from the Expo in downtown Monterey. Pre-purchased tickets are available for pick-up in the same room as bib pick-up or at the door. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 at the door, if available. Online sales are now closed. There are two seating options, 4:30 PM or 6:00 PM.

United Happy Hour Lounge, Friday and Saturday from 3-5:30 PM

Visit the United Lounge at the front of the Expo if you need to sit for a spell, charge your device, and socialize with fellow runners! There will be a Happy Hour from 3 to 5:30 PM on Friday and Saturday featuring beverages from Athletic Brewing, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Marquis, Dole, and Sunny With a Chance of Flowers wine. Watch a course video, meet our Ambassadors and enjoy a series of giveaways.

Special entry rate for the November 13, 2022 Monterey Bay Half Marathon

Visit the Monterey Bay Half Marathon booth inside the expo to register for this November's race at a special discount! Plus, when you sign up in person, you'll receive a free pair of branded Fitsoks! For more information about this race, also organized by the Big Sur Marathon Foundation, please visit www.montereybayhalfmarathon.org



OFFICIAL RACE MERCHANDISE

Be sure and visit the Marathon merchandise store on the main expo floor for a wide assortment of commemorative items including technical wear, leisure wear, souvenirs, and HOKA® shoes for try-on and purchase! Supplies are limited and many items sell out early. You can also shop our online store prior to race weekend.

RACE MORNING



TRANSPORTATION TO THE 21-MILER START

Masks are required on all buses this year. All 21-Miler runners and walkers must use our free transportation to the 21-Miler start at Andrew Molera State Park in Big Sur. Highway 1 is closed early race morning to private vehicles. There is NO parking in the start area and there is no runner drop-off by private vehicle.

Free race morning parking will be available at both 21-Miler bus departure locations: [View the bus pick-up locations and parking map.](#)

- Monterey Marriott (for Marriott Hotel and downtown Monterey hotel guests and those parking at the Downtown East/West Garages in Monterey) from 4:15 - 4:30 AM
- Barnyard Shopping Center (Clock Tower Place and Via Nona Marie, Carmel) from 4:00 - 4:15 AM

You will collect a ticket for one of the 21-Miler shuttle bus locations when you pick up your 21-Miler race bib at the Expo.

For participants staying in Big Sur, we use smaller shuttle buses to transport from two locations north of the starting line and two locations south of the starting line. If you are staying in a hotel or campground north of the start, you would walk to either Ripplewood Cabins and Campground or River Inn to catch a bus at 5:15 AM. If you are staying south of the starting line, please walk to Post Ranch Inn or Deetjen's to catch a ride to the start at 5:15 AM. To board these buses, stand near Highway 1 in order to be visible to bus drivers. A second bus will transport you from the Marathon start to the 21-Miler start beginning at 5:30 AM with the last bus departing at 6 AM.

Buses leave so early race morning to make sure all runners get to the start on time and to ensure all buses are off the Highway for final course set-up and the start of each race distance. Please arrive early to board your bus. Thanks for your cooperation!

Note: Free post-race buses depart the Marathon Finish Village between 9:30 AM and 2 PM to take runners back to their original pick-up location. Buses back to Big Sur leave at approx. 11:00 AM, 1 PM, and 2 PM.

RACE START

[The 21-Miler start](#) is at Andrew Molera State Park on Highway 1 in Big Sur. Wear warm clothing (average temperatures are in the 40's) as you will be in the area for an hour or more before your start. Use the clear GU gear check bag and attach the adhesive bag tag located at the top of your race bib. Do not check any personal bags, backpacks, suitcases, etc. Do not enclose valuables and do not check any fluids or other heavy or sharp items. Place your bag at a gear collection area before the race start. We are not responsible for lost or stolen property.

If you have friends or family meeting you at the finish, we suggest having them bring your post-race clothes and that you wear extra clothes you wish to donate to the start. Collecting and sorting fewer gear bags after the race helps everyone.

There is one start for all 21-Milers at 6:20 AM. For your safety, you will start in the parking lot at Andrew Molera and run uphill on the park entrance road to enter Highway 1. Your official race time will begin when you cross a timing mat at the Marathon 5-mile mark, about .2 of a mile from the parking lot start.

Listen carefully for race announcements to begin loading into the start area. We will load the faster runners first. The event is chip-timed so there is no advantage to being near the front. Relax and enjoy the start-there is plenty of course ahead!

Please keep the mask you wore in the bus to the race if you anticipate riding a bus back to your morning pick-up location. Masks are required on all buses before and after the race.



ON COURSE

THE COURSE: THE REASON YOU ARE HERE!

For many of you, this will be your first time running or walking the 21-Miler. You've heard about the beautiful scenery and the challenging hills. We want to make sure you know more details about what to expect when the 21-Miler begins so you will have a great race. [Click here to view the 21-Miler course map.](#) While every course is different, there are some things that are truly unique about this race.

Here's what you should know:

- Always stay in the left (ocean-side) lane on Highway 1. The other lane (land side) is used for emergency vehicles, race officials, and live traffic in escorted caravans both northbound and southbound. Please do not cross the center yellow line at any time.
- There are 9 aid stations spread out about every two-to-three miles. If you choose to opt-in to our cupless initiative, you will be able to fill your HydraPak SpeedCup or other reusable hydration system at the far end of any on-course aid station. We strongly encourage wearing a hydration vest or carrying your own bottle so we can avoid cup waste along the course and in the start and finish areas.
- There are 12 entertainment stations with local groups and performers including the popular Taiko drummers halfway up the climb to Hurricane Point and Michael Martinez playing the Yamaha N3 Avant Garde piano just after the Bixby Bridge at mile 13.2.
- The only mile markers you will see are for the full 26.2-mile Marathon. To know how far you are in your race, subtract five miles from the signs you see (e.g., Marathon mile 9 is your mile 4, etc.). Just about everyone wants to take pictures at some point during the race. Please look around and pull off to the side carefully before stopping to take a picture to avoid impeding other runners.
- MarathonFoto will have professional photographers at a half-dozen locations on the course plus at the start and finish lines to document your race. You will receive an email after the race with proofs of the photos they have taken of you for potential purchase. Be sure your race number is visible on the FRONT of your shirt or shorts for race officials and photographers.
- Cell coverage is poor to non-existent over most of the course so don't plan on posting on social media or making or receiving calls or texts during the race.
- If you are a faster runner, expect to pass hundreds of walkers and slower runners from the 11-Miler and even the 12K race that also use the same single lane on Highway 1. They know you are coming and are advised to stay to the far left; however, plan on doing some careful maneuvering around these fellow runners and walkers.
- Enjoy the HOKA "Time to Fly" zone at mile 16.2.
- We strongly discourage the use of earbuds/earphones. The course can be crowded in spots and it's safer if you can hear comments from your fellow runners. Also, the land-side lane is used for escorted caravans, emergency vehicles, and race officials in vehicles and on bicycles. The better you can hear what is around you, the safer you can run.

- We are very serious about our course time limit because we must be. Please read additional information about the time limits below.
- Please help us keep this beautiful area clean. Please don't throw items off the road: just drop items in your running lane where our clean-up crews can more easily spot them. And please don't go to the bathroom behind bushes, trees, or fences on the course. There are plenty of portos on the route and there is A LOT of poison oak alongside some sections of the course!
- The road is closed to private vehicles, bicycles, walkers, or non-registered runners. The only place for friends and family to watch you run is at the finish line. No spectators are allowed on the course.
- No dogs or other animals, unofficial pacers, skates, skateboards, bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, hand cranks, baby joggers, or carrying of children or infants. If you need special accommodations, call (831) 625-6226 or email info@bsim.org.
- No bandits, no unofficial pacers, no exceptions. Only official race entrants wearing an official 2022 bib assigned to them are allowed on the course.

AID STATIONS

There are nine aid stations located about every 1.6-2.6 miles with Gatorade Endurance, water, refill stations, and portable restrooms. If you choose to opt-in to our cupless initiative, you will be able to fill your HydraPak SpeedCup or other reusable hydration system at any on-course aid station. GU energy gel will be available at Marathon mile 12.2 and Marathon mile 19.0. Fruit may be available at later stations. The strawberry station is at Marathon mile 23.4.

COURSE MEDICAL

There are medical personnel at each aid station with basic first-aid supplies. We do not provide medications (ibuprofen, aspirin, inhalers, etc.).

There are mobile medical teams and course marshals on bicycles throughout the course for your safety. If you have any medical needs, flag down one of our bike marshals. Bike marshals are there to ensure runner safety and to remind runners to stay in the ocean-side lane for the last 24 miles of the race.

If you choose to discontinue your race, please report to an aid station where a sag wagon will be dispatched to take you to the finish area. Note that it can take some time to return you to the finish.

RUNNER TRACKING

We do offer an app through our timing company, South Valley Endurance, to track runners on race day. [Download the app by clicking here](#). Note that because of little to no cell coverage or internet on the course, updates on runner positions on the course are often delayed.

THE FINISH & POST-RACE ACTIVITIES

[View a map of the finish area.](#)

The finish line and Finish Village are located at Highway 1 and Rio Road. After crossing the finish line, you will receive a finish medallion and be directed into the runner food tent for light recovery food and beverages. MarathonFoto will be in the finish chute to capture your picture for purchase.

Note: as part of our goal to reduce our environmental impact, we do not hand out plastic bottles of water. There will be an area to refill your personal hydration device or compostable cup.

The family reunion area is outside the runner food tent in the central area of the Finish Village.

Hot minestrone soup and a Cheers Garden (for those age 21 or over) are also available. The Cheers Garden will feature Other Brother Brewing beer and Athletic Brewing non-alcoholic beer. Entrants are entitled to one free beer. Beer will also be available for sale for those over 21 for \$5 cash.

FINISH MEDICAL

Medical professionals will be scanning finishers for any signs of distress. A large, fully staffed medical tent is in the area. You may also visit the area on your own if you need any medical attention (blisters, cramps, etc.). There will be ice located in or near the medical tent. We do not offer post-race massages.

GEAR CHECK

Gear bags checked before your race are located just outside the fenced grass Village area in the parking lot of The Crossroads Carmel shopping center.

MARATHON AWARDS CEREMONY

The Marathon awards ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. on the main stage for the top finishers in the 26.2-mile race. There are no overall or age group awards in the 21-Miler, 11-Miler, 12K, or 5K.

FINISH VILLAGE MERCHANDISE STORE

Unique Big Sur Marathon commemorative merchandise will be available for sale in a large tent in the Finish Village. Quantities are limited and all items are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The tent is open for spectators, friends, and family. Cash and credit accepted. The Finish Village store will have a final clearance sale on Monday, April 25, the day after the race, from 10 AM to 2 PM.

RACE RESULTS

Look for the black "SVE Race Results" tent from the timing company in the Finish Village. There you can look up your results on a laptop computer. (Printed results are not posted.) Results also will be available online at bigsurmarathon.org on Sunday afternoon (along with a downloadable finisher certificate). Marathon finishers are also published in the Tuesday, April 26 Monterey Herald.

POST-RACE SHUTTLES

Post-race buses depart the Marathon Finish Village on Rio Road (in front of Bank of America and Starbucks) beginning at 9:30 AM to return you to your morning boarding locations. The last bus will depart at 2 PM. Buses back to the Big Sur area campgrounds and hotels are scheduled to depart at 11 AM, 1 PM and 2 PM.

INFO BOOTH AND LOST & FOUND

If you have any questions after the race, please visit our information booth located near the Village exit.

SPECTATOR TIPS

- Due to the closure of Hwy 1 to private vehicles, bikes, runners and walkers, the only place to watch participants in any of our races is at the Finish Village.
- Free parking is available in the shopping centers and nearby streets but expect heavy traffic. You may have to park a half mile or more away from the finish village.
- Find your friends and family at the Runner Reunion area near the exit of the runner food tent.
- Please, no dogs, drones, or bicycles in the Finish Village.
- The Finish Village is a relatively small area so anticipate heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic and lengthy delays accessing the area. We suggest you scope out the area in the days before the race and have a confirmed post-race meeting time and location. It usually takes at least 15 to 20 minutes from the time a runner crosses the finish line to be available to reunite with family and friends outside the runner food tent. Parking can be a challenge in the shopping centers and nearby streets.
- There is little to no cell phone service along the course. Spectators should not anticipate receiving calls, texts, or social media updates from participants. In addition, due to heavy demand, cell coverage in the Finish Village can be very challenging after the race.
- There are three coffee shops located within a few blocks of the finish line including a Starbucks adjacent to the Village. There is also a drug store, grocery store, and a half-dozen or more restaurants in The Crossroads Shopping Center next to the Finish Village. More coffee shops and stores are also located in The Barnyard and Rancho Carmel Center, about a half-mile north of the Finish Village.
- If spectators are taking a ride share service or cab to the area, expect to find many surrounding roads closed and to be dropped off a quarter to a half mile away from the Finish Village.



If you have any additional questions, please visit bigsurmarathon.org and click on the "Race Weekend" or "Frequently Asked Questions" pages. Our email is info@bsim.org. Our office phone number is (831) 625-6226 (note that this phone is not answered race weekend).

We'll see you soon!

-The Big Sur Marathon Team

GOOD LUCK, RUNNERS!