

Heart Mini-Marathon Frequently Asked Questions

Events and Registration Fees:

Registrations on or before 9:00 a.m. EST on March 2nd:

- 7:30 am – Heart Half-Marathon presented by St. Elizabeth Healthcare (\$65)
- 7:30 am – 15K Heart Mini (\$50)
- 9:30 am – 1K Steps for Stroke presented by UC Health (\$40)
- 10:30 am – 5K Heart Race presented by altafiber (\$45)
- 11:15 am – 1.5K Kids Race (\$25)
- 12:00 pm – 5K Heart Walk presented by Cintas (\$40)
- *Combo: Heart Half-Marathon & 5K Heart Race - \$105*
- *Combo: 15K Heart Mini & 5K Heart Race - \$90*

Registrations on or after 9:01 a.m. EST on March 2nd:

- 7:30 am – Heart Half-Marathon presented by St. Elizabeth Healthcare (\$70)
- 7:30 am – 15K Heart Mini (\$55)
- 9:30 am – 1K Steps for Stroke presented by UC Health (\$40)
- 10:30 am – 5K Heart Race presented by altafiber (\$50)
- 11:15 am – 1.5K Kids Race (\$25)
- 12:00 pm – 5K Heart Walk presented by Cintas (\$45)
- *Combo: Heart Half-Marathon & 5K Heart Race - \$110*
- *Combo: 15K Heart Mini & 5K Heart Race - \$95*

Do I have to register to participate?

- Yes, everyone who wants to participate in any event needs to register. All participants need to sign a waiver. The only way to receive a T-shirt is to register.

Is there a deadline?

- No! You can register up until the day of the event.
- Anyone who registers on or before February 13th will have their items mailed prior to event weekend.
- Anyone who registers on or after February 14th will have to pick up their packets on March 14th or event day, March 15th (see packet pick-up section for more details)

When will my shirt ship?

- If you registered by Feb 13, 2026, your race packet will be shipped to your house. They will be mailed beginning March 3rd and arriving at the earliest, March 7th or 8th.

Can I register on event weekend?

- Yes, we will have event day registration beginning at 6:00 am. Day-of registration occurs at the First Financial Building (corner of 5th + Sycamore St).

Can I switch events after I have already registered?

- You can switch events by emailing heartmini@heart.org. If you switch races before February 14, 2026, the change is free. If you are switching between any of the races (Half marathon, 15K or 5K race) AFTER FEB 13, 2026, it is a \$25 flat fee. You'll also need to pick up a new bib at packet pick-up on March 14th (at Messer Construction) or at registration (at First Financial Building) on Sunday, March 15th. If you are switching from a race to the 5K walk or Steps for Stroke, there is no fee and you will not need a new race bib.



Can I get a refund after I have registered?

- No, all entries to the Heart Mini are non-refundable. After we have received and accepted your entry, we cannot issue a refund or defer your registration to next year.

Is there a price increase?

- Yes – There is a \$5 increase starting **March 2, 2026 at 9am**. This rate increase applies to all events, except 5K Heart Walk, 1.5K Kids Race, and 1K Steps for Stroke.

Are there age limits for events?

- Yes – please see below:
 - Half Marathon & 15K – ages 15 and up
 - 5K Race – ages 8 and up
 - 1.5K Kids Race – ages 5-12
 - 5K Kids Walk – ages 12 and under

When does online registration close?

- You can register until event day. The website will be open until 11:00am on March 15th.
- If you register after February 13th, you will need to come to packet pick-up at Messer Construction on March 14th or registration (in the First Financial building) on March 15th to get your shirt + bib. It WILL NOT be mailed to you. See below for more details.

Will there be cash/change at the Mini?

- NO, this is a cashless event. We will be accepting cash donations, but we will NOT have change if you choose to pay the registration fee with cash.

Is there virtual registration?

- Yes! There is a question during registration (same page when asking t-shirt size) asking if you would like to participate virtually or not. [You can use this form](#) to submit your time by March 23, 2026. It will be added to the official race result website by March 27, 2026.
- Note: Even if you participate virtually, if you register after Feb 13, you will need to pick up your race packet, or it will be mailed after the event.

How will survivors be recognized?

- Those who choose to be recognized as a survivor (by indicating so during registration) will be given special red race bibs, finish the walk through the survivor chute, and be guests at the VIP Breakfast. There will also be a survivor bell and drum in the middle of 5th + Sycamore Street to take pictures!
- Note: If you are participating in a race, you must wear your timed event bib. You can choose to wear your red survivor bib as well, but you cannot wear only the red bib (there is no timing ability on it). If you are participating in a walk, you can choose to wear your event specific bib, the red survivor bib, or both!

Awards

Are there awards?

- Yes! Your tax-deductible registration fee includes the Heart Mini T-shirt and medals for all **timed races**.
- Medals for the 5K Heart Walk will only be available to Heart Throbs, those who raise \$1,000.



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- Additional awards will be distributed for each of the timed events (Half marathon, 15K, 5K race, 1.5 kids' race).
- Top overall awards will be based on gun time and will be presented to the top 3 overall males and females in each of the chip timed races.
- Age group awards will be based on chip time and will be distributed to the top finisher (male and female) in the Half Marathon, 15K and 5K race in each age division: 0-12, 13-18, 19-24, 25-30, 31-36, 37-42, 43-48, 49-54, 55-60, 61-66, 67-72, 73-80, 80+
- Results for all chip timed events (Half Marathon, 15K, 5K race and 1.5K) will be available after the race at the "Timing/Awards" tent outside of the First Financial Building at the corner of 5th and Sycamore. Maps will be available. Please visit to pick up your individually printed personal results. Results will also be available online at www.heartmini.org.

Packet Pick-up

When and where can I pick up my packet?

- If you are registered prior to or on February 13th, your shirt, medal & bib will be mailed to the address you entered at registration in the first week of March.
- Those registered on or after February 14th will be able to pick up their shirts & bibs on either Saturday, March 14th at Messer Construction or Sunday, March 15th prior to the start of their event. Packet pick-up day-of is at the First Financial Building in Downtown Cincinnati.
 - **March 14th:** Messer Construction (643 W Court St Cincinnati, OH 45203) from 9am-3pm
 - **March 15th:** First Financial Building Lobby (Corner of 5th + Sycamore St Downtown Cincinnati) from 6am-11am

Can someone else pick up my packet?

- Yes. For someone else to pick up, the alternate person must present the confirmation email OR a signed note from you stating that you are allowing them to pick up your packet.

Course Information

Are course maps available?

- Yes! Route maps are available on our [website here](#).

Do the courses have time limits?

- For the Half Marathon there will be a time limit which follows a 16 min pace. If you reach the 9-mile mark after 9:50 am, you will finish on the 15K course. For the 15K course, you must be able to maintain a 20 min/mile pace. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. There is no time limit for the 5K race + walk course

Are pacers available to help me achieve a goal finishing time?

- Yes, pacers will be available for both the Half Marathon and the 15K to help you reach your goal time or train for your next race!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated 3/10/26



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Can I start my race earlier than the posted time?

- No, for your safety on the course, you must wait until the official start time of the race.

How are the courses timed?

- The ½, 15K, 5K race and 1.5K Kids Run are chip timed. The chip will be attached to the back of your race bib/number.

Are the courses USATF certified?

- Yes, all courses are USATF certified.

How many water stops are on the course?

- For the Half marathon, there will be 4 water stops. For the 15K, there will be 3 water stops. For the 5K race and walk, there will be 2 water stops.

Are headphones allowed?

- Yes, but please use headphones at your own risk making sure that you remain aware of directions from traffic control personnel as well as the safety of yourself and other runners.

Am I allowed to push a stroller?

- Strollers and baby joggers are permitted on the course, but please, LINE UP AT THE BACK OF THE STARTING AREA and be aware of your surroundings, the safety of your rider and other race participants.

Can I participate if I'm in a wheelchair?

- Yes! We also ask that you start towards the back of the crowd to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you. Safety is our #1 priority on event day. There is no discount, or wheelchair race division, but all are welcome and encouraged to join us! If you have a true "street racing wheelchair" please contact heartmini@heart.org so that we can coordinate your start time.

Can I bring my dog?

- No, sorry! We love animals, but they are not allowed on the courses unless they are assisting visually or otherwise physically impaired participants. Our race area (start + finish line) is very crowded and not a suitable area for animals!

Is there an inclement weather policy?

- Your safety is our priority. In the event of severe weather- including lightning, high winds, or extreme heat or cold- the Race Director has the discretion to delay the start time or cancel the race prior to or during the race.

Event Day Information

Is there a bag-check?

- Yes! We offer a bag-check (inside a school bus) for items you don't want to run with.

Is there an indoor area to rest or use the bathrooms?

- There is no indoor area to rest before your race. We offer portable restrooms but there are no indoor public bathrooms.

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- Our top fundraising coaches + survivors are invited to a VIP breakfast where indoor bathrooms are available. Wristbands to get into VIP breakfast will be mailed to your house on event week.

Is there food offered?

- There is water along the course and at Eat Street there are snacks, fruit, and water for everyone.

Fundraising Information

When is the last day to turn in my donations?

- To receive credit to the online store, donations must be turned in by April 25th to allow for entry. Otherwise, we will continue to accept donations through June 30th. Any received after June 30th, will be credited towards next year's event.
- **The Heart Hero Rewards Center** can only be accessed by logging into your participant center. Once you hit a threshold, your points total should update within a few hours. Your rewards are only available to be redeemed for 6 weeks post-event (April 25, 2026).