2026 White River Marathon

Athlete Guide

SCHEDULE

November 20 | Friday

Packet Pickup & Pasta Dinner

5:30 - 7:30 pm - Packet pickup (No onsite registration, we've reached capacity)
5:30 - 7:30 pm - Pre-race pasta dinner

Cotter School Cafeteria
181 Mabel, Cotter, AR

November 21 | Saturday

Packet Pickup

5:00 - 6:40 am (ALL PACKETS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 6:40)
Cotter School Cafeteria
181 Mabel, Cotter, AR

Time to run!

6:45 am – Marathon and Half Marathon runners must make their way to the starting line. **ALL runners must be parked due to road closure**. **Regardless of your race start-time, we need everyone there by 6:40.**

7:00 am
Marathon & Half start

7:30 am
5K start

2:00 pm
Race cut-off

2026 WRM Shirt Sponsor!

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2026 WRM CHARITY RECIPIENTS

Have a Heart Pet Shelter will receive 50% of the 2026 proceeds to complete a project which includes a play yard, fencing, and an indoor kennel.

Cotter FD will receive 20% of this year's proceeds to help pay for advance training.

The FBNCA will receive 20% of this year's proceeds to help support the Mobile Food Pantry Program in Gassville and Norfork, Arkansas.

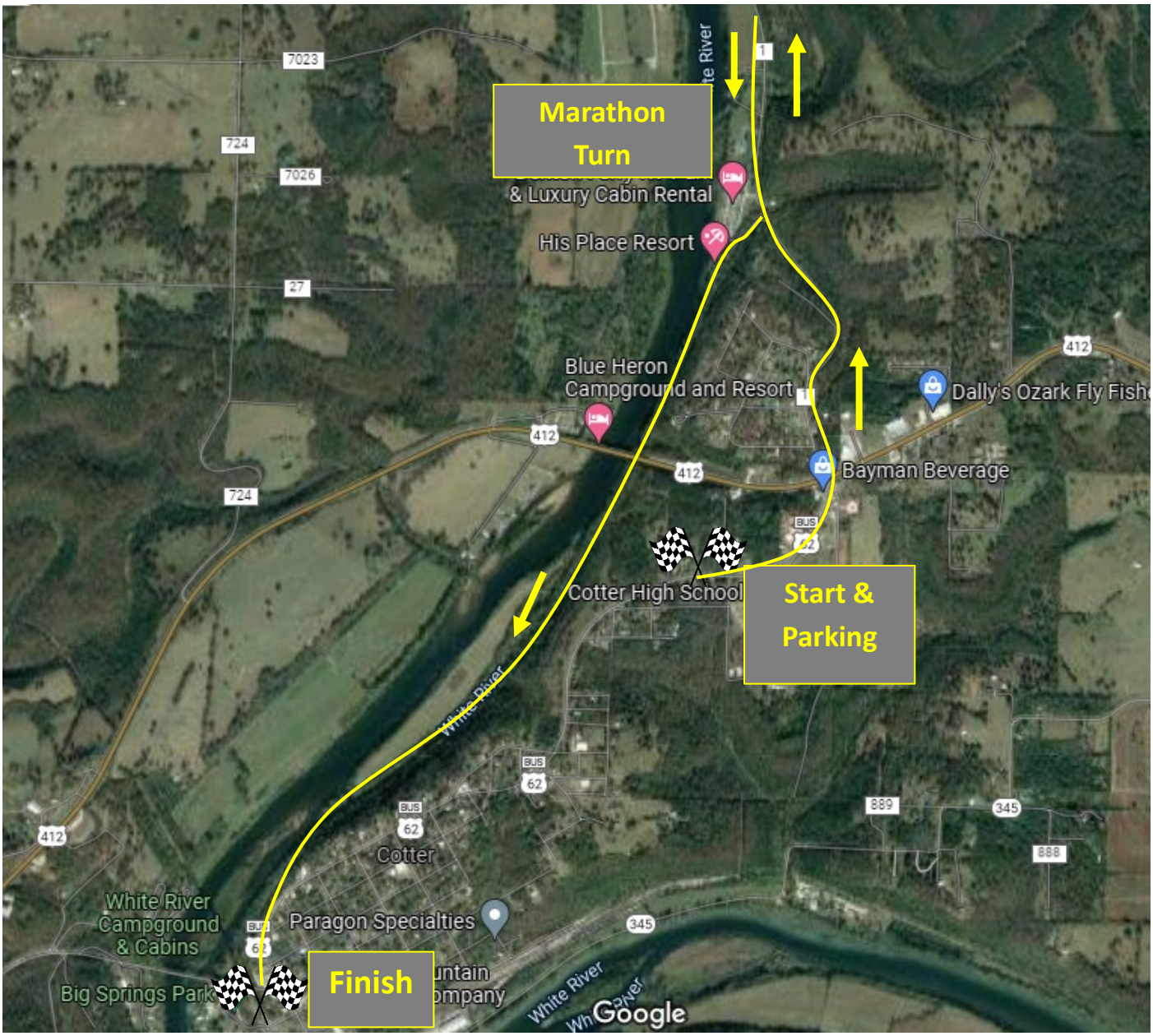
Wesley Kitchen will receive 10% of this year's proceeds.

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Questions & Answers

Where do I park?

Cotter School Campus – there is plenty of parking on campus. Please follow the signs and the directions given by the parking attendants.



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Pasta Dinner?
Tickets can be purchased online or onsite. Adults: $12, Children: $6.00. Procedures go to this years charities.

Can I park at the finish line?
Yes! Parking is available at the Big Spring Park! Additionally, family/friends that wish to make it to the finish line are welcome to come to the finish area in one of the shuttle vans that pick up / drop off outside the school.

Is it possible to defer to next year?
Sorry, per official WRM Policy, we cannot accept these requests the week of the race.
Read the WRM policy HERE.

When is the start?
7:00 am for marathon & half marathon
7:30 for 5K **(must be onsite by 6:40)**

Are there "drop bags"?
Yes. Small bags will be available at packet pickup. There will be a "drop bag" area inside the cafeteria. Drop bags should not be considered secure. White River Marathon takes no responsibility for drop bags other than their safe transfer from the start to the finish area.

Is this race a Boston Marathon Qualifier?
Yes. The Marathon is a Boston Qualifier. All courses are USATF certified. (See Certification Numbers on Course Maps and Info Page)

What sort of weather is typical for this time of year?
The weather for this time of year is very unpredictable. Typically, the start is in the low 30s and warms to the high 40s or low 50s. Check out the **WEATHER FORECAST HERE**

Shuttle Services and Pasta Dinner Provided by:

Into the light
Ending Child Sex Trafficking
Bringing Hope to Survivors

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Where do I put my shoes to be recycled?

Shoe recycling drop-off is located right outside the doors of packet pickup at the Cotter School Cafeteria. There will be signs you can't miss!

ON THE COURSE:

Is this the same course as last year?

Yes. We have the same awesome flat course and same amazing finish, which is under the big, beautiful Cotter Bridge right next to the White River.

Is there a time limit?

We have a 7-hour time limit. The race starts at 7:00 am; we will clear the course at 2:00 pm.

Are earphones / music permitted?

We do not prohibit earphones, but please take into consideration that this is not a 100% closed course. Runners should use common sense by keeping volume low, wearing only one earbud, etc., so you can be aware of your surroundings.

Where can spectators see the runners?

The best place is at the finish line. Not going to lie, *WRM is not a spectator-friendly course* due to the out-and-back nature and limited access. Friends & family may drive to, or take a free shuttle, to the finish line to see your accomplishments!

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Are strollers permitted?

Strollers are only permitted for those doing the 5K since this is not a 100% closed course. For safety reasons, we wish to get strollers off the course before the field thins out.

How will aid stations be spaced?

Approx. every 2 miles.

What will aid stations provide?

They will be stocked with Gatorade, GU Gels, water, and possibly candy bars, fruit, and pretzels.

How often will there be Port-a-johns?

Approximately every 2 miles along the course, and there are restrooms located at the Cotter School Cafeteria, as well as the finish area.

What is the course like?

- Course runs along the World-Famous White River with scenic views!
- Race does NOT have a common start and finish line.
- All races start at Cotter Schools.
- All races finish at Cotter's Big Spring Park under the old Cotter Bridge.
- 5K is point to point.
- Half is out and most of the way back.
- Marathon is out, back to mile one, out again, and back to the finish.
- The last two miles of each race encompass a two-mile stretch of compacted and fine gravel pathway, everything else is asphalt.

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AFTER THE RACE:

What's at the finish line?

- Hiland Dairy has donated 500 cartons of chocolate milk for your quick recovery for the Marathon & Half Marathon finishers!
- Finisher Medals
- Water
- Bananas
- Results

What about results?

- Unofficial Results will be posted on Run SignUp throughout race morning, but no live results as we have shotty service at the finish line.
- You may have your individual results printed for you at the finish area.
- Overall and Division results will be posted at the school.
- Overall and Division winners will be announced at the school.
- Unofficial Results will be posted on the WRM website the evening of the race.
- Official Results will be posted on our website approximately one week after the race.

What about post-race meal?

There is an awesome potluck meal for all runners and their families beginning at 10:00 am at the Cotter School Cafeteria.

A big **THANK YOU** to **John Hilvert** for making the post-race meal an awesome reality!

Are showers available?

Yes, they're back in action!

Aid Station Sponsors

Mtn. Home Schools – FBLA

Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce

Kiwanis Club of Mountain Home

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Finisher Medals?

Yes. All Marathon, Half Marathon, & 5K finishers will receive a Finisher's Medal!

Awards and Divisions?

- Awards will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place overall finishers (men & women) for all races, including a Master's Division for the Marathon.

Age Group Awards (men & women)					
5 K		**Half**		**Marathon**	
0-13	45-49	0 - 13	45-49	13-19	50-54
14-19	50-54	14-19	50-54	20-24	55-59
20-24	55-59	20-24	55-59	25-29	60-64
25-29	60-64	25-29	60-64	30-34	65-69
30-34	65-69	30-34	65-69	35-39	70-74
35-39	70-74	35-39	70-74	40-44	75 +
40-44	75+	40-44	75+	45-49	

Are there race photos?

Yes. Race photos will be made available post-race. Thank you, Megasnap Images for taking our photos!

Photo Backdrop Sponsor

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Show off your stuff post-race in front of the Farmers & Merchants Bank backdrop!

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CHIP TIMING:

Is there timing at the start and finish?
Yes, chip timing at both the start and the finish by Agee Race Timing.

How are times recorded?
Times will be displayed by both the chip and gun start.

How are division winners calculated?
Division winners are determined by the chip time.

How do I put on my chip?
- There are two tags – **ONE FOR EACH SHOE**.
- Tags should **hang freely off the side of each shoe**.
- They should **NOT** be tucked inside the shoe or under the laces.



1. Feed shoelace through the tag so it rests **on the side** of the shoe
2. Then tie your shoes back.
   - The tag will hang off the shoe; **you won't even know it's there!**

     (If you don't have laces, pin the tags onto shorts/pants no more than 2-3 inches above the bottom of the shorts.)

What happens to my chip?
Receptacles will be available at the finish line and back at the school for you to return your chips.

Is there a penalty for not returning chips?
We want you to return the chips; however, we will not charge you for unreturned chips.

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