Thank you for entering the 7th running of The Race Different: the Santa Fe Thunder Half Marathon, Lightning 5K and 1 mile fitness walk! This guide is intended to help make your race experience fun, positive and memorable. If after reading this guide you have any questions, please check out the FAQ page, and contact us at info@santafethunder.com or visit santafethunder.com for additional information.

**Packet Pickup**

**Packet Pickup and Registration for all events**

**Packet Pickup and Registration Event - Albuquerque - Tuesday September 12th 12-7 PM**
*Sports Systems* 6915 Montgomery Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87109 - nmsportsystems.com

**Packet Pickup/Global Running Festival - Saturday September 16th 12-4 PM**
*Buffalo Thunder Resort* (20 Buffalo Thunder Trail, Pojoaque – see map). Parking and entry are FREE. The Festival will include the following activities:

- Race packet/T-shirt/pickup (keep your bag – it’ll be your sweats bag on Race Day!)
- Huarache Demonstration
- World Market Arts & Crafts
- Pre-Race Running Supplies – Our friends from ABQ’s *Bosque Running Shop* will have all the last minute items you need for a great experience on Race day!

**Questions?** Please see a volunteer at the questions table rather than trying to resolve them with the volunteers handing out bibs. It will keep everything moving more smoothly, for you and for us!

**Meet a Living Legend!** Kipchoge “Kip” Keino will by flying in from Nairobi, Kenya to attend Race weekend! You will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Keino, have your photograph taken with him and to get an autograph in exchange for a donation to Global Running Culture, with all proceeds going to the *Kipkalwa School Project* – a new school that will be built in Abraham Kosgei’s village of Matunget, Kenya this Fall!

**Fun!** Master sandalmaker Fred Coen and champion Rarámuri ultramarathoner Juan Rico, will share leather running sandal making techniques during a demonstration of Rarámuri-style running sandals. Fred has made several Vibram and leather soles for the event, and we look forward to seeing how the craftsmen design and create their own running huaraches! You will be able to order your own pair and also purchase handmade arts and crafts from Rarámuri, Kenyan, and Native American craftspeople. Also, running gear and special T-shirts will be available for purchase thanks to *Bosque Running Shop*. 
Gathering of Messengers Pre-race dinner – Saturday 9/16 - 6:00 PM

A traditional pre-race pasta feed will be held in the Shadeh Nightclub in Buffalo Thunder. The dinner will include a presentation and talk by our guest of honor, Kip Keino, along with recognition of our guests and talks about Global Running Culture and the Kipkalwa School Project. Tickets for this special dinner are $40 and are available here (at our race registration site). Space is limited, so reserve your seat now! Buffalo Thunder chefs will prepare delicious pasta with meat and veggie sauces, fresh salad and warm bread.

This year’s Gathering of Messengers will honor Kipchoge “Kip” Keino, the Father of Kenyan distance running, 2-time Gold Medalist and renowned humanitarian. The Gathering of Messengers emcee will be America’s Running Community Ambassador Mark Bravo.

Race Day – Sunday 9/17

HALF MARATHON – 7:30 AM

PARKING We ask that half marathon participants park at the finish on the north side of Buffalo Thunder, and we will provide bus transportation for half marathoners to the starting line at Fort Marcy in Santa Fe.

Starts on the Old Taos Highway on the west side of Fort Marcy in Santa Fe. See map.

We recommend that you park at Buffalo Thunder and plan to arrive no later than 6:00 AM!

School Buses will take half marathoners from Buffalo Thunder to the starting line at Fort Marcy. Half marathoners will warm up in the parking lot west of the baseball field and prior to the start, will follow Kalenjin warrior Abraham Kosgei across the pedestrian bridge to the west and to the starting line on the Old Taos Highway.

There will be parking for ALL participants at Buffalo Thunder!

There is ample parking on the north side of Buffalo Thunder and only limited parking at Fort Marcy. Please see finish line map for directions to the parking areas and keep an eye out for the “Race Parking” signs as you approach the resort (note that it will be dark when you arrive – be prepared to follow the signs and volunteers wearing reflective yellow safety vests who will be directing you to your left down the Frontage Road before you enter the resort). You will take a left on the frontage road rather than going straight in to Buffalo Thunder. If you reach the roundabout, you’ve gone too far - go all the way around the roundabout, head back out toward the highway and then take a right on the Frontage Road, so that you can park with everyone else. Buffalo Thunder is a big place and it will be dark, so plan ahead and get familiar with the entry when you pick up your race packets on Saturday!

SHUTTLE BUSES The half marathon starts in Santa Fe. Shuttle buses from Buffalo Thunder to the start begin at 5:30 AM. THE LAST BUS WILL LEAVE AT 6:30 AM! Please be on one! We will not hold up the start for entrants who miss the last bus!

Only half marathoners will take the bus. Please see the attached map, showing the access route from Hwy 285, parking areas, bus loading locations and finish line set-up. Please park in Lot 1. Once that lot is full, we will fill lot 2 and then lot 3.
If you miss the last bus, you will miss the race, so please ensure ample time to arrive at Buffalo Thunder, park and walk to the bus loading zone, which will be close to the parking area. Arriving to the start early and focusing on your race is far preferable to worrying about making it to the start on time! There will be a port-a-pot available at the bus pickup location at Buffalo Thunder.

Please note that if you do not park at Buffalo Thunder, we will have limited bus transportation available back to Fort Marcy/downtown Santa Fe, leaving after the race from south side of the finish area. Look for the yellow school bus and listen for announcements. We plan to have buses leave at 10:30 and 11:30.

**Sweats Bag Labeling**

**HALF MARATHONERS** - Please bring your Sport Systems race bag with you on race day. Tear off the “sweats bag tag” from the bottom of your race bib and use the twist inside your goody bag to secure your bag tag, and your bag closed. That will ensure that you will be able to pick up your bag and sweats at the finish line.

At least 10 minutes before the start, you can put your sweats into the bag and drop the bag off at the designated location in the parking lot. We will bring your bag to the finish line, where it will be waiting for you when you arrive. You will need to show your race bib to pick up your sweats bag. Mornings can be a bit chilly this time of year, so please be prepared, but don’t put any valuables in your sweats bag!

The starting line is on Old Taos Highway. Please drop off your sweats bag and walk or jog to the starting line so that you will be ready for the start at 7:30!

Global Running Culture will not be liable for any lost items. We will have a lost & found at the Information Table. After race day, please email info@santafethunder.com about any lost items.

**Race Day Registration and Packet Pickup**

On race day, half marathoners may register or pick up their race packets at the starting line at Fort Marcy. If you have entered the half marathon but did not pick up your bib on Saturday, get on a shuttle bus at Buffalo Thunder – your bib number will be waiting for you at Fort Marcy. There is no packet pickup at Buffalo Thunder on race day.

We don’t advise that you plan to arrive Sunday without your bib, as that will create extra stress for you and race volunteers. We encourage entry and packet pick-up on Tuesday in Albuquerque, or on Saturday at the Global Running Festival to avoid last minute issues and make your race experience as enjoyable as possible.

**The Half Marathon Course**

The USATF-certified half marathon race course is point to point, starting on the Old Taos Highway next to Fort Marcy and finishing at Buffalo Thunder. **RUNNERS MUST STAY ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD!** Any runner who crosses onto the left hand side of the road will be in traffic and may be disqualified. Cutting across lanes is prohibited and may result in disqualification.

Also, please note that between the 1 and 2 mile marks, there is a short stretch where the course runs on a bike trail. Be ready for this – you will not follow the road, which turns to the right, instead the course will stay straight onto the bike trail.
Please note that as you approach Buffalo Thunder on the frontage road west of the resort, you will **PASS the finish line area, which will be to your right**. Keep an eye out for the right hand turn past the north side of the Resort buildings! You’ll turn back to the southeast and the finish line will be just a couple of hundred yards in front of you.

There will be aid stations every 2 miles along the course providing water and **Gnarly energy drink**. Each aid station will have first aid personnel, a port-a-potty, and there will be live music along the course.

The elevation of the starting line is 7,000’. The high point of the course at about the 2 mile mark is about 7,300’. From there, the course gradually descends 1,300’ – to an elevation of 6,000 at the finish – a net 1,000’ descent from start to finish. Click [here](#) to check out the course profile. You will receive a finisher’s medal at the finish line. This year’s medal has been designed by Bernice Gachupin, our favorite Jemez Pueblo artist.

Please be sure to hydrate in the days before the race and on race morning. Santa Fe typically has low humidity and that, combined with the altitude and our typically sunny days can dry you out. Also, use sunscreen liberally – the sun up here is intense! Don’t find out about these things the hard way! Here is info about the typical September weather in Santa Fe.

**The Finish Area**

The finish area has been designed with the needs of runners and spectators in mind (please see the finish line map). The fenced off area immediately behind the finish line is for runners only! Volunteers will assist runners as they finish, helping address their immediate needs. Please vacate the finishers’ area when you are able, as more finishers will be arriving.

**FOOD AND DRINK** – Global Running Culture is donating bananas, popsicles, water and our generous sponsors are donating Blue Diamond Nut Thins and more.

Spectators - please don’t sample the free items - they are for the entrants and running out before all the finishers arrive would be bad karma for everyone. There will be breakfast items available for purchase in the Turquoise Trail Grille inside Buffalo Thunder where the award ceremony will be held.

**PARTICIPANT SERVICES** The finish line map shows the location of the following participant amenities – first aid, port-a-pottys, massages, entertainment and results. Maps will be posted in the finisher’s area and all volunteers wearing blue shirts will have finish area maps to help you get where you’re going.

**Results**

**DG Productions’** state of the art timing system brings race results in real time to the finish area and internet! Results for the Lightning 5K and Half Marathon will be posted as they are produced in the trailer next to the timing area.

**Awards**

**FINISHERS’ MEDALS** All half marathon finishers will receive medals designed by Bernice Gachupin of Jemez Pueblo
TOP FINISHER AWARDS Prize money will be awarded in the Half Marathon for the top three male and female finishers:

1st Place $1,000  2nd Place $500  3rd Place $250

Prize money in the amount of $250 will be awarded in the Half Marathon for the top male and female Masters finishers.

COURSE RECORDS The course records for the Half Marathon are 1:02:23 (Nelson Oyugi) and 1:09:16 (Aliphene Taliamuk-Bolton). These are the fastest half marathon times ever recorded in New Mexico. If a course record is broken, the new record holder will receive a $500 bonus.

AGE GROUP AWARDS Age Group awards will be presented inside the Buffalo Thunder Casino in the Turquoise Trail room, where there will also be live music, and food and drink available for purchase. The Half Marathon award ceremony will take place at 10:00 AM.

Handmade medals will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in 14 age groups in the Half Marathon and 5K. The handmade clay medals have been designed and made by Jemez Pueblo artists from the Gachupin family.

Age group award categories in the 5K and half marathon are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age brackets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 &amp; UNDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you win an age group award, but are not able to pick it up, please contact us at carolyn@santafethunder.com and we will mail the award to you at the address shown on your entry. Please note, it will take a couple of weeks for us to mail the awards.

Post – Race Transportation to Santa Fe

We will have very limited bus transportation available from Buffalo Thunder back to Fort Marcy/downtown Santa Fe from Buffalo Thunder, leaving after the race on the south side of the finish area. Look for the yellow school bus and listen for announcements. The bus plans to head to Santa Fe at 10:30 and 11:30.

Volunteers and Sponsors

Global Running Culture is an all-volunteer organization, and we could not present this event without the generous support of our race volunteers and sponsors. This is truly a community event and we do our best to support members of the community who have donated their valuable time to help ensure that our participants’ needs are addressed. We are so grateful for you all. Please thank the volunteers, who will be wearing blue shirts on Race day.

Thank you again for your entry, participation in The Race Different, and support of our cause. We look forward to seeing you and wish you a memorable, fast, safe and fun race!