

Race Weekend Guide – 5K and 1 Mile Fitness Walk

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 - nmsportssystem.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 be 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

All events start at 7:30 AM

5K and 1 MILE FITNESS WALK – 7:30 AM

Start on the west side of the Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino in the Pueblo of Pojoaque 5K runners and walkers will start and finish at Buffalo Thunder, [see map](#).

PARKING

See attached map Please see [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!

5K PARTICIPANTS

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.

Before the start, you can put your sweats into the bag and drop the bag off at the designated location near the start/finish line. 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!

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

5K runners and 1 mile walk participants may register at the start/finish line area at Buffalo Thunder. 5K runners and 1 mile fitness walkers – **do not get on a bus!** Your event takes place at Buffalo Thunder.

The 5K and 1 Mile Fitness Walk Course

The 5K and 1 Mile Walk will begin and end on the west side of Buffalo Thunder and will make a loop up the (paved) Butterfly Trail. A map of the course can be found [here](#), but your time will not be recorded.

1 Mile walkers – you will start at the same time and with the 5K runners. Please keep an eye out for the 1 Mile Walk turnaround sign! You will receive a finisher's medal at the finish line.

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!

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 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

AGE GROUP AWARDS 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 5K award ceremony will take place at 9:00 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:

Age brackets

10 & UNDER	20-24	35-39	50-54	65-69
11-15	25-29	40-44	55-59	70-74
16-19	30-34	45-49	60-64	75+

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.

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.

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!