

2026 Olympia Lakefair Races

Frequently Asked Questions



1. When and where are the races?

All races are Saturday, July 18, 2026. All races share the same finish line at the corner of 5th Avenue SW and Sylvester St SW (across from the “Dancing Waters” Fountain at Capitol Lake Park) in Olympia, WA. Following is a schedule of start times and start locations for each race:

- Jerry Miller Half Marathon – 7 am Start (also 6 am Early Start for runners expecting to run over 3 hours - 13:45 min/mile pace – please no faster runners – there are no course marshals or aid stations at that time). Location: On 5th Ave SW, directly opposite door at 119 5th Ave SW, 12 meter east of Columbia St SW. Due to the Lakefair Parade, the course closes at 12 noon (5 hours after the start).
- Lakefair 8K – 8 am Start. Location: On 5th Ave SW and Sylvester St SW (Finish Line).
- Lakefair 3K & 3K Kids Run – 8:05 am Start. Location: On 5th Ave SW and Sylvester St SW (Finish Line).

2. Are the course distances accurate and certified? Any other course details?

Yes. All courses will be certified, with the following USATF certifications:

- Jerry Miller Half Marathon – [WA15001RMB](#) (new certification in Spring 2026) – The course is close to a large loop, with the first half being a gentle uphill, and the second half largely downhill. Mile marker signs will be at each mile, and the course marked clearly, along with volunteers and police officers at turns and intersections. Large sections of the course are shaded. Much of the course is on the Woodland and Chehalis Western Trails with no automobile traffic. There are 5 Aid Stations.
- Lakefair 8K – [WA25009RMB](#) – The course is a very flat near loop to Tumwater Historical Park and back, circling the north end of Capitol Lake in the process. Mile marker signs will be at each mile, and the course marked clearly, along with volunteers at turns and intersections. There is one Aid Station runner pass by twice.
- Lakefair 3K – [WA25008RMB](#) – The course is essentially a flat loop around the north end of Capitol Lake. There will be a 1 Mile sign, and the course marked clearly, along with volunteers at turns and intersections.

3. How do I enter?

You can enter two ways:

- Online (<https://www.olympialakefairraces.org>) or directly via RunSignup.com - <https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Olympia/OlympiaLakefairRaces> – entries close 15 minutes before each race.
- Day of Race Entry for the 3K, 8K and Jerry Miller Half Marathon is also available at Heritage Park on 5th Ave SW near the finish line starting at 5:45 am.

4. Where do I pick up my number and race packet?

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- Race packets and numbers for all races will be available Friday, July 18th from 11 am to 7 pm at Fleet Feet Olympia at 3405 Capitol Blvd, Tumwater, WA
- Race packets and numbers for all races can also be picked up at Heritage Park on the grass near the Performing Stage near the Finish line the morning of the race starting at 5:45 am.

5. Are there Aid Stations and Sanicans on the courses?

- Aid stations are located approximately every two miles for the Lakefair Half Marathon (five total).
- Sanicans are located adjacent to all but the first Lakefair Half Marathon Aid Stations.
- There is one Aid Station that runners pass by twice on the Lakefair 8K.
- All aid stations have water and Nuun sports drink provided and are staffed by enthusiastic local high school cross country and track team members and community volunteer organizations.

6. What are the Entry Fees?

Below is a table with the schedule of entry fees. For the 3K, kids 14 & under are free without a T-shirt. Online entries have a service charge added by RunSignUp

Discounts are also available for Groups of ten members or more. More details are available in the “Registration” section at www.olympialakefairraces.org website.

EVENT <i>(Please Circle all that apply and write Total Amount)</i>	Early Bird (Before 4/20/2026)	REGULAR (4/20 – 6/30/2026)	LATE (7/1 – 7/17/2026)	DAY of RACE 7/18/2026
Kids (14 & under) 3km – Entry & Shirt	\$10 (Free w/o Shirt)	\$10 (Free w/o Shirt)	\$10 (Free w/o Shirt)	\$10 (Free w/o Shirt)
3 km – Entry & Shirt	\$40	\$45	\$50	\$55
8 km – Entry & Shirt	\$40	\$45	\$50	\$55
1/2 Marathon – Entry & Shirt	\$70	\$80	\$90	\$100
All Races - No Shirt Discount	-\$10	-\$10	-\$10	-\$10
1/2 Mar – No Medal Discount	-\$10	-\$10	-\$10	-\$10
Total Amount:				

7. Where does the money go?

The Olympia Lakefair Races are co-sponsored by the Lake Run Organization 501(c)(3) and the Olympia Downtown Rotary Club (non-profit). Profits support local public high school running programs (Black Hills HS, Capital HS, North Thurston HS, Olympia HS, Rainier HS, River Ridge HS, Timberline HS and Tumwater HS) and Olympia Rotary Club Foundation Scholarship Fund and Community Grant Fund. There is a long-term goal to support a statue or other display at Marathon Park to more prominently commemorate the first United States Olympic Marathon Trials Race held in 1984, and ending near Marathon Park. The Trials race was likely the biggest sporting event ever to occur in the Olympia area.

8. What are the Lodging Options?

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There are several hotels near the combined Finish Line in downtown Olympia. A searchable hotel finder for Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater hotels can be found at <https://www.experienceolympia.com>. The annual Capital Lakefair Festival is scheduled for the same week in 2026, so book lodging early!

9. Is there anything else going on in Olympia?

The annual multi-day Capital Lakefair Festival is scheduled for July 15-19, 2026. The festival has a parade after the races, sporting events, carnival, fireworks and much more for the family to enjoy. Find more information at [Capital Lakefair Olympia](#). Trip planning and ideas for attractions, events and ideas in the Olympia area can be found at the Experience Olympia website: <https://www.experienceolympia.com>.

10. What about timing and results?

Tortoise and Hare will be providing chip timing and results for all the races. Pin your number on the front of your shirt. Results will be posted after each race in Heritage Park, as well as online at www.olympialakefairraces.org.

11. Are strollers or dogs allowed on the course?

Unfortunately not. Much of the half marathon course is on a bike path that remains open to the public during the race, and the other courses have large portions on sidewalks or bike lanes that are not wide. In addition, our insurance doesn't cover strollers or pets.

12. Is there a time limit for the courses?

Not officially, but our permit to close some of the downtown streets and have police assistance ends at 10:30 am, which gives half marathoners 3.5 hours (4.5 hours for Early Start runners) to complete the course. Runners can still finish after 10:30 am, but there won't be course marshals or police support, and they will have to follow traffic lights. If you think you are going to take longer than 3 hours, contact us online at [Contact](#), and join the Early Start at 6 am.

13. Are there pacers for any of the races?

Yes, for the Half Marathon there will be six pacers from 1 hour 40 minutes to 2 hour 20 minutes (1:40, 1:50, 2:00, 2:10, 2:20 and 2:30). They will each be carrying a sign with their pace time. There will not be any pacers for the 3K and 8K.

14. Are there awards, swag and any random awards?

- Awards are given to the overall male and female winner, disabled, wheelchair, masters (40+) and super masters (50+) male and female, and non-binary for each race. Overall, masters and super masters



winners will not also be eligible for age group awards listed below. Overall, masters and super masters winners will be decided by Gun Time, all other winners will be determined by Chip Time. Award winners will not be eligible for multiple awards, and will be “bumped up” to a higher overall division if necessary (ie if a 45 year old wins the overall race, they would be awarded the Overall Winner Award, and the next person 40 or over would win the Masters award).

- The 8K race is part of the Silver Striders (50+ years) annual series of races.
- Awards will also be given to the top 3 finishers in the following categories:
 - **3K Race** - 5 & Under (kids must complete race under their own power - no stroller or backpack “passengers”), 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-59, 90+
 - **8K Race** – 14 & Under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-59, 90+
 - **Half Marathon** – 19 & Under, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-59, 90+
- Half Marathon Finishers will be presented with Finisher Medals at the Finish Line (unless they choose the “No Medal Discount” option).
- Various prizes (almost \$1,000 total value) and food will be randomly chosen from all entrants (must be present to win) at the awards ceremony after the races.
- Awards will be given out according to the following schedule in Heritage Park adjacent to the Finish Line.
 - 3K Race - Awards Ceremony scheduled for **9:10 am**
 - 8K Race - Awards Ceremony scheduled for **9:30 am**
 - Half Marathon - Awards Ceremony scheduled for **9:50 am**
 - Awards can also be picked up later at Fleet Feet Olympia (3405 Capitol Blvd SE, Olympia, WA 98501). Unclaimed awards will NOT be mailed.

15. Will there be race photographs?

Yes, and they’ll be FREE! **For the seventh year, as part of the Olympia Lakefair Races**, photographers on the course and at the finish line will be taking action photos, as well as pre and post-race photos. These photos will be posted online, organized by race number, and are free to download and share, print, or copy and paste as you see fit.

16. Is there any food and drinks after the race?

Various free snacks and food are available at the finish line, including water, sports drink, watermelon, apples, granola bars, and snacks. Well 80 Brewhouse (514 4th Ave E, Olympia, WA 98501) is the hospitality of the Olympia Lakefair Races, and has great lunch food following the races. There are also numerous Olympia downtown restaurants within blocks of the finish line for a complete meal.

17. Where do I park?

- There is typically ample parking in downtown Olympia early Saturday morning, and parking is Free on Saturday and Sunday unless otherwise noted. There are also some private pay lots in downtown

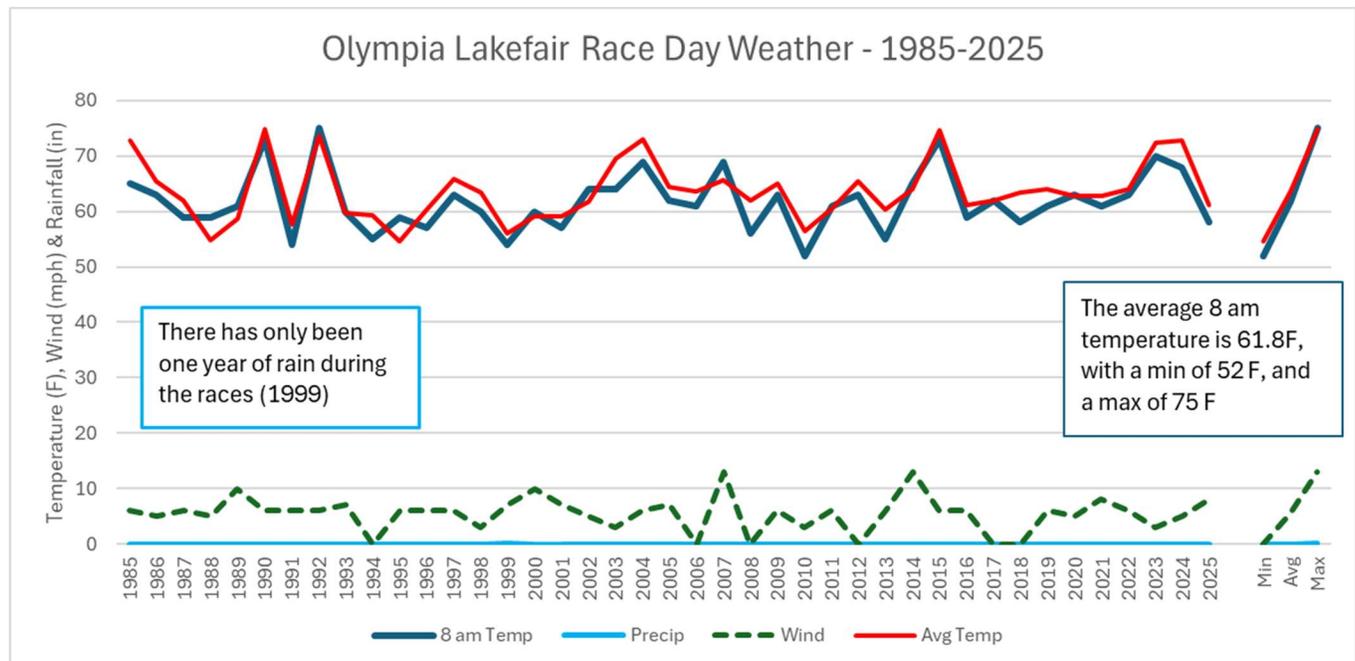


Olympia that may have a weekend rate. A few lots (just east of Water Street) are reserved for Lakefair food vendors.

- A few blocks of 5th Ave SW near the finish line will be closed, but much of Deschutes Parkway SW will have available parking.

18. What is the weather typically like on race day?

Typically the temperature is around 60 F at 7 am, and 62 F on race day. In the last 41 years, there has been rain once during the races. The daily average for mid-July is 64 F, with an average low of 50 F, and average high of 76 F (typically occurs in the afternoon long after all the races are over). Following is a chart showing the daily average temperatures and the temperature at 8 am and for the 1985-2025 time period.



19. Are there massages at the finish line?

At this point, there are unfortunately no massages offered at the finish line for Half Marathon finishers. As the race grows this will be considered.

20. Any other questions not answered here?

If we haven't answered your question, please submit it in the "Contact" section of the www.olympialakefairraces.org website, and we'll get back to you with an answer to the best of our ability.