

Organizers unveil new two-day Mankato Marathon format

Events will move to Saturday, Sunday

MANKATO — A few changes are in store for the 2012 Mankato Marathon, including a shift to two days of races and race-related activities.

The 2012 Mankato Marathon, Relay Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012. The 5K, KidsK, Sport and Health Expo, Speaker Series and Pasta Feed will take place the day before.

“After two years of assessment, the date was changed due to multiple factors including a better fit into the race calendar, a chance for better weather and more,” a statement issued by Marathon officials said. “Our change to Saturday/ Sunday races will allow the opportunity for a full weekend of events and growth in all events.”

The 5k and KidsK will move from Sibley Park to the Minnesota State University campus due to growth.

“Sibley Park just wasn’t big enough to hold all the runners and spectators we had for the Mankato Marathon 5K and KidsK in 2011,” said Race Director Mark Bongers of Final Stretch Inc.

Moving the two Saturday races to campus prompted the move of the Sport and Health Expo, Speaker Series and Pasta Feed to campus as well. The Expo and Speaker Series will be held in Myers Field House and the Pasta Feed also will be on campus. “Having all of Saturday’s races and activities right on campus will make for a convenient and relaxed environment for the race participants,” Bongers said.

The KidsK will be divided into age categories of 6 and younger and ages 7 to 12, and will be opened up to 400 participants to accommodate the growth of the event. The 5K will be opened up to 1,000 runners and the 10K race will be opened up to 1,200 people.

More information about the 2012 races will be released in the coming weeks. Registration opens Thursday.

Visit mankatomarathon.com for more information.

— *Robb Murray*



Runners start the 10K race at the 2011 Mankato Marathon.

Beginning in 2012, the Relay Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K will be held on Sunday, rather than Saturday, and all pre-race events will take place the day before the main races.

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