

AIR FORCE MARATHON

To all AFM participants past and present,

The U.S. Air Force Marathon has always been so much more than a race on the 3rd weekend in September.

Since its inception as an idea by two Captains in 1996 as a way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force, our goal has remained steadfast: to open the doors of Wright-Patterson AFB and to encourage health, fitness, and happiness to all. What began as a marathon has grown to include a half marathon, 10K, 5K, and a 1K kids' fun run, and now the Air Force Marathon has even grown to include other events throughout the year!

More than ever in this time of social distancing, closures, and a world trying to adjust, the goal to encourage health, fitness, and happiness is more important than ever.

Our event has always been the 3rd Saturday in September for a good reason, it is the birthday of the U.S. Air Force. Despite some record-breaking hot years, we have held to our date because we believe in celebrating our history and heritage on our birthday!

We all thrive on certainty, the sun rises in the east, there's 24 hours in a day, and the Air Force Marathon is on the 3rd Saturday in September, however we simply cannot be certain if the event will press on and if it is to go on, what that event may look like.

We know it is hard to figure out when to begin training, coordinating travel arrangements, pressing on with fundraising efforts, etc. However, as much as our team would like to assure you that the event will take place, we simply cannot offer that level of certainty right now.

The landscape changes daily right now and our team and every one of our mission partners adjust every day to this ever-changing situation. We continue to work through numerous scenarios and try to find solutions to those issues and any new ones that come up.

We have an incredible responsibility to all our participants but as race organizers, our responsibility goes much further. We have a tremendous responsibility for the health and safety of our communities, our local businesses, the entire team at Wright-Patterson AFB, our 2,500+ volunteers, our medical teams, and so many others.

Every decision we make is driven by simple questions; is it the truth? Is it fair to all? Will it build goodwill? And will it be beneficial to all? Those questions transcend producing all the events associated with Air Force Marathon weekend. We exist to make decisions right for all.

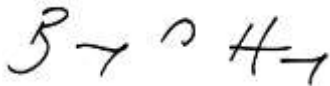
This situation has brought out the best in so many, the human spirit is relentlessly resilient and adaptable. We will continue to see endless examples of that resilience in the coming months and hope that in the interim you all will continue to remain healthy and fit!

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In this time, we are all Airmen and if there is one thing we know, it's that Airmen don't leave any Airmen behind. Thus, we ask in this time to continue to support one another until we can safely open the doors of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and continue our goal of encouraging health, fitness, and happiness in all!

Thank you so much for your continued understanding and patience and we ask that you continue to take care of yourself. We will release another update no later than June 12th.

In the interim, happy running from everyone at team Air Force Marathon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B-Hough".

Brandon Hough
Director, Air Force Marathon