



ARMED FORCES DAY • MAY 20, 2017
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

2017 Media Packet
Official Press Release

Welcome

The City of Corpus Christi, Texas will soon be invaded by nearly thousands of runners that represent the great State of Texas, the United States and beyond.

What are they coming to South Texas for why it is the annual running of the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon?



The Beach to Bay Relay Marathon is a full-scale relay marathon (a true marathon is 26.2 miles) that begins on beautiful and scenic North Padre Island, crossing the Laguna Madre along the JFK Causeway, then traveling through Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and finishing on Shoreline Boulevard, with the bay as a backdrop. The race culminates with a huge after race celebration and pizza party.

The very first Beach to Bay Relay Marathon was held in 1975, as a way for runners to gather and honor our nation's military personnel. Now, 42 years later the tradition continues and the race is held on the third Saturday in May or **Armed Forces Day**. (Saturday, May 20, 2017)

The course's easy access will allow you to cover the event at many vantage points along the route; the only restricted area will be the portion of the race that passes through the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. McCaughan Park is a highly recommended spot for video, photo shoots as the winners cross the finish line, and all participants gather around for the post-race festivities, which include food and refreshments, live music entertainment, and the awards ceremony.

SO WHAT IS NEW FOR THE BEACH TO BAY RELAY MARATHON THIS YEAR, FROM RACE DIRECTOR DOUG MCBEE JR.?

As race director of the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon, the biggest request asked from runners to me is how come they can't run the full marathon? In 2016, added to the 24 divisions was the full Beach to Bay Marathon.

(Not for the faint of heart by any means!) Now, I have run many marathons, none of which was in the month of May and certainly not in hot and humid Corpus Christi, Texas.



Over the past years, I have heard of rumors of people running the entire Beach to Bay Relay Marathon. But where these rumors true? Guess so!

After talking over many scenarios with committee members, other board members of the Corpus Christi Roadrunners and various local athletes I saw some encouragement leaning us towards allowing our participants to sign up for the running the full marathon. (26.2 miles)

The process was completed after lots of thought and running various scenarios by local running enthusiasts, I still thought are these people crazy? Then I realized most dedicated athletes train for a running event and should know what they are getting themselves into.

So on the race application; we requested marathoners have some previous experience in running marathons. We requested four previous marathons, thinking this would be a nice round number. I wanted to be secure in the fact that they knew what they were getting themselves into.

(Water, Water and More Water) I realized that more water-stops were needed for the race but I also encouraged the participants to carry water with them in the event they needed some extra.



We also put our heads together and came up with some extra goodies to place in the race bags for the runners of the inaugural Beach to Bay Marathon. This will include a beautiful finishers' medal, a long and short sleeve t-shirt and a beautiful crystal glass to signify their accomplishment.

We are pleased to announce again that Mark Schauer, Assistant Chief of Administration for the Corpus Christi Police Department will be running on the full marathon in honor of Chief Floyd Simpson.

Chief Floyd Simpson was very involved in our community and one of his first loves was Special Olympics. A big benefactor of the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon is Special Olympics.

I am so very excited this year to see what the outcome and results will be.

Doug McBee Jr.

Beach to Bay Contacts

For additional information about the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon, or about the contents of this media kit, or interview follow-ups, please contact:

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Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Event: Beach to Bay Packet Stuffing

Location: Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz Center
402 Harbor Dr.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Time: 5:30 p.m. until completed (approximately 9:00 pm)
Excellent Photo Opportunities

Friday, May 19, 2017

Event: Beach to Bay Sports Exposition, Registration and Runner Packet Pickup (numerous sports related vendors in attendance)

Location: Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz Center
402 Harbor Dr.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Time: 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.



Saturday, May 20, 2017

Event: Beach to Bay Relay Marathon RACE DAY

Official Welcome by Master of Ceremonies **Jimmy Rodriguez**

6:20 a.m. at the Start Line

Invocation

6:52 a.m. Reverend Axel Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church

National Anthem

6:53 a.m. Moment of Silence for (Fill In the blank)

6:53 a.m. performed by **Rolando G. Barrera**

Beach to Bay Relay and Full Marathon

7:00 a.m. Start of the race officiated by Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority's Managing Director of Operations, **Rosa Villarreal** at Nueces County Park on the Beach just south of Bob Hall Pier

Post Race Celebration

9:00 a.m. at McCaughan Park

Course Closure: 1:00 p.m.

Press Release:

Corpus Christi, Texas: On Saturday, May 20, 2017 at 7:00 a.m., thousands of runners and spectators from all over the United States will flock to Padre Bali Park on Padre Island for the 41st annual Running of the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon.



The Beach to Bay Relay Marathon is a 26.2 course sanctioned by the Corpus Christi Roadrunners. (The Corpus Christi Roadrunners a non for profit running club founded in 1975) It has been deemed the United States most premier relay running marathon, since there is not one of its size and magnitude. The event is divided into six legs that are approximately 4.4 miles. Each participant will run one leg and hand a baton to his or her team member at various official exchange points.

The Beach to Bay Relay Marathon was founded in 1975 by Naval Captain John Alden Butterfield who came to Corpus Christi after serving in Iran. Butterfield organized the first ever “Armed Forces Day Beach to Bay Relay Marathon, and the race has been growing in popularity ever since. All monies raised from the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon serve over 45 local charities such as Special Olympics, the Naval Relief Society and many youth organizations here in the Coastal Bend.

Race Director, Doug McBee Jr. states, “the loyalty for the event is overwhelming. I like to refer to the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon as the Adult’s Spring Break”. “It takes many volunteers, many of which spend an enormous amount of their personal time to put this race together. It is with their dedication that the race has flourished.” states McBee.

For more detailed information along with a media packet, please visit the official website for the race at www.beachtobayrelay.com

Beach to Bay 2017 Important Items to Remember

Buses/Transportation



We realize that travel can be timely on the buses but the less vehicular traffic on North Padre Island there is, the less traffic that will bog down.

The Beach to Bay Committee has worked alongside of the City of Corpus Christi and the Texas Department of Transportation to create a BUS/EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ONLY lane during the most stressful times of travel back and forth to North Padre Island.

First and Second Leg runners are to board the buses at the Sunrise Mall located on South Padre Island Drive and Airline Road. The Sunrise Mall has graciously offered the parking and we are glad to welcome them onboard as a sponsor.

The Third Leg Runners will board the bus in Flour Bluff on Security Drive by the Flour Bluff Post Office. There will be Race Officials and Security to show you the designated parking. All fourth leg runners may park at the same location and walk to your starting point, you will be transported back to your vehicle after running your 4th leg event.

Starting Point

In order to make the race more efficient and flow better, we have moved the starting point to Access Rd 5 and Eliff Street. Don't worry there will be plenty of volunteers on hand to help you to your team's starting point and truly you won't notice the variation much.

Parent BIBS/4th Leg Runners

As you know our country military installations are in a state of heightened emergency. Naval Officials at NAS Corpus Christi had graciously allowed entrance into the base for our participants. Please be respectful at all times to and all Naval Officials and follow all of their instructions.

Parents with minor children are more than welcome to run alongside their child but you must be wearing **a PARENT BIB**. **The PARENT BIB** can be obtained at Packet Pick Up on May 19, 2017, during the Sports Exposition Hours. Also persons with disabilities requiring a provider must also have his/her provider wear a PARENT BIB. **The PARENT BIB** is a requirement of Officials at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in order to maintain your and their security and well-being.

The 4th leg ONLY!

Parents of minor children will **not** be allowed to ride a bicycle along his or her child!

Chip Timing

All race participants of the 42nd Annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon will be scored by "Chip Timing Technology" The only runner required to wear the chip will be the last runner or your 6th leg runner. The chip or scoring device will be part of the BIB number worn by the 6th leg runner(s). It will be marked in red.

Checking In

The location for packet pick up is at the Solomon P. Ortiz Center located at 402 Harbor Drive just under the Harbor Bridge. This new location will take the Sport's Exposition is twice as large in square footage and will allow for much bigger displays and setups for vendors.

The Beach to Bay Relay Marathon Committee is constantly striving to improve the event.

Please be aware of any new changes (www.beachtobayrelay.com) and most importantly pass instructions along to your team especially those designated as team captains.