2026 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, 49 years later the tradition continues and the race is held on the third Saturday in May on ***Armed Forces Day***. This year due to circumstances beyond our control the race will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026

The course's easy access will allow you to cover the event from 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.

Runner's who have children in the race may accompany their child thru NAS C.C. but must have a PARENT BIB that they may get when checking in for Packet Pick Up!

Water's Edge 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.

Relay Your Way!

Beach to Bay 6-Person Original

The 6-person relay is what most sign up for! A highly anticipated event that many local celebrities have run including our Mayor, Paulette Guajardo. The 6-person race is just what the weekend warrior or any runner could want in a race.

Most of the legs are between 3 and 5 miles depending on which leg you choose:

Leg 1 / 3.146 miles	Leg 2 / 4.67 miles	Leg 3 / 4.36 miles
Leg 4 / 4.60 miles	Leg 5 / 4.20 miles	Leg 6 / 5.07 miles

All of the legs / events have a beautiful back drop. Set against our beautiful city of Corpus Christi Texas!

There are 26 divisions for all to choose from. Many are gender or age specific and there is an Odd and Ends for those to place anyone on his or her team.

School age runners are very important to the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon and in 2022, the race began offering a special for school teams to apply. But 3 get 2 free! We realize how important teachers are to the community and many of which we have found in year's past have used their own funds in order for students to run the race.

Beach to Bay It Takes Two 2-Person Relay

This year we will again be featuring a two-person relay event along with the full-marathon.

This will not be a half marathon. We feel this would make the other events suffer and we would have to put in place another finish line. So, the first person will run from leg 1 at beginning near Bob Hall Pier and finish at the beginning of leg 4 by NAS drive in Flour Bluff. The second runner will begin his or her trek at leg 4 and carry the baton to the finish along Shoreline Boulevard.

We are so very proud to bring this new added attraction to our race. We look forward to hearing any further suggestions you may have.

Full Marathon for (Crazy People)

As race director of the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon, Race Director Doug McBee Jr. stated "the biggest request asked from runners to me is how come they can't run the full marathon?"

After talking over many scenarios with other committee members, other board members of the Corpus Christi Roadrunners and various local athletes Doug saw inspiration leaning 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, McBee, a former marathoner, still

thought are these people crazy? Considering the extreme heat in May in Corpus Christi. Then, 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, (retired) Assistant Chief of Administration for the Corpus Christi Police Department will be running on the 6-person relay.

Chief Schauer's wife Leslie who is an avid runner and athlete will once again be running the 2-person relay

We could not be happier!

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

Friday, May 15, 2026

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

Location: Texas A&M University-Dugan Hall

Time: (OPEN) 9:00 a.m. until (CLOSE) 8:00 p.m. SHARP!

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Event: Beach to Bay Relay Marathon **RACE DAY**

Official Welcome by Master of Ceremonies

6:20 a.m. at the Start Line

Invocation

6:52 a.m. J.L. Coleman

National Anthem

Rolando Barrera

6:53 a.m. Moment of Silence for Paul Holder

and Carol Flowers

6:53 a.m. National Anthem

Beach to Bay Relay and Full Marathon

7:00 a.m. CCRTA CEO Derrick Majchszak

Post- Race Celebration

9:00 a.m. at Water's Edge Park

Course Closure: 1:00 p.m.

Press Release

Corpus Christi, Texas: On Saturday, May 16th , 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 48th 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 2024

The 48th Annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon Saturday, May 31, 2025

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/EMERCENCY 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 back to Bob Hall Pier. **(Park Road 5 & Eliff Rd)**

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 Friday, May 15th, 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! Parent BIBs may be obtained at Check in or Packet Pick Up.

Chip Timing
All race participants of the 49th 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 Texas A&M University's Dugan Hall. 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.