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Kansas City Sports Commission Acquires Hospital Hill Run

KANSAS CITY, MO (June 7, 2023) – Today, on Global Running Day, the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation announced it would assume ownership of the Hospital Hill Run, known as the “Grandfather of all Kansas City road races.”

"This family friendly event has transcended generations and continues to showcase so many of the beautiful landmarks throughout our city, along with its mission to give back to the community with the focus on health and wellness," says Lisa Drake, Race Director for Hospital Hill Run. "We give a special thanks to all that have contributed to this iconic event, and it will continue to have a special place in our hearts."

Hospital Hill Run was founded in 1974 through the collaboration of Dr. E Grey Dimond, head of UMKC School of Medicine, Dr. Ralph Hall of Saint Luke’s Medical System and Jim Burnley, the secretary-treasurer and newsletter editor of the Missouri Valley Masters Track and Field Association (now referred to as the Mid-America Running Association). Known as the oldest race in Kansas City, Hospital Hill Run remains a beloved running institution on the first Saturday of June, beginning and ending near Crown Center. The event recently celebrated its 50th anniversary at the 2023 race.

“On behalf of the Sports Commission and the Kansas City running community, I want to thank longtime race director, Lisa Drake, for continuing to make Hospital Hill Run one of the best races in the region,” says Josh Zabel, Director of Events for the Kansas City Sports Commission. “This event perfectly aligns with our mission, and we are excited to carry on this special Kansas City tradition for many more years to come.”

Hospital Hill Run has garnered significant recognition and accolades over the years, including being named one of the top 25 road races by Runner’s World Magazine in 1984. The event also hosted the first USATF National Championship half marathon in 2002. In February 2013, Runner’s World Magazine chose the Hospital Hill Run as the 11th best half marathon in the U.S. And in 2020 and 2021, Pitch Magazine recognized the Hospital Hill Run as the reader’s choice award winner for the best-organized footrace in Kansas City.

“As someone who has participated in the Hospital Hill Run several times, I know the value this race brings to the Kansas City community,” says Kathy Nelson, President and CEO of the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. “Whether they are professional, collegiate or recreational competitions, sports and fitness events continue to drive much-needed awareness about nutrition, physical health and mental wellbeing.”

Registration for the 51st Hospital Hill Run is now [live](#). The event, scheduled for June 1, 2024, consists of an expo, 5k, 10k and half marathon.

For more information about the Hospital Hill Run, please click [here](#).

About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation

The mission of the [Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation](#) is to drive Kansas City's overall sports strategy, to enrich the quality of life, create economic impact and raise visibility for our region. As a privately-funded nonprofit, we are entirely dependent on your support. For the latest on Kansas City Sports Commission news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). Also follow the Garmin Kansas City Marathon on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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