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Garmin Kansas City Marathon Returns with New Route and Finish Line Festival Location

Kansas City's premier race to begin at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

KANSAS CITY, MO (October 6, 2021) – [The Garmin Kansas City Marathon](#), Kansas City's iconic road race, returns on **Saturday, October 16th** and will debut a [new course](#), beginning at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Additionally, the Finish Line Festival, presented by T-Mobile, will take place in Theis Park, located just south of the start/finish line.

Founded in 1979, the Garmin Kansas City Marathon is the largest road race in the Kansas City metro, drawing participants from around the country. An accredited Boston Marathon qualifying course, the new route continues to showcase some of the most beautiful landmarks in Kansas City including the World War I Museum and Memorial, Country Club Plaza, Waldo, Westport, the 18th & Vine Jazz District and more.

"We are very excited to help Kansas Citians and out-of-town runners experience the Garmin Kansas City Marathon in a new way through this course," says Dave Borchardt, Race Director of the Garmin Kansas City Marathon. "Our team has invested a lot of time and energy into creating a series of COVID protocols to ensure a safe and positive race day for everyone participating."

The Health and Fitness Expo, presented by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas City, will once again be held at Union Station on **Thursday, October 14th and Friday, October 15th**. In addition to packet pickup, the expo is free and open to the public. It features a large variety of sponsor and vendor booths with food and drink samples, as well as apparel, shoes and fitness technology for sale.

"Garmin has deep roots in the Kansas City area, and the Garmin Kansas City Marathon is an event that we look forward to every year," comments Susan Lyman, Garmin® Vice President of Global Consumer Marketing. "Whether this is someone's first race, or they're striving to set a new PR, we are excited to cheer on this year's runners as they cross the finish line."

The Garmin Kansas City Marathon serves as the largest annual fundraiser for the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation and WIN for KC, helping those organizations fulfill their respective missions. It has received multiple accolades, including Trip Advisor's "50 U.S. Road Races to Attempt in your Lifetime", "Best Marathon in Missouri" by RaceRaves, and "The BibRave 100: A Definitive List of the Best Races in America" by BibRave.com. Finally, it is part of the I-35 Challenge, which allows competitors to attempt to complete 2 races – the Garmin Kansas City Marathon and IMT Des Moines Marathon – in 2 days.

Due to COVID-19, several safety measures have been implemented. Per local guidelines, expo attendees will be required to wear a mask when not actively eating or drinking. On race day, there will be a socially distanced start, runners will need to wear a mask before the race when they are waiting to start, aid stations will be contactless, handwashing and sanitization stations will be placed throughout the race site, and the Finish Line Festival footprint has been expanded to allow for increased social distancing.

For more information, please visit www.kcmarathon.org.

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](#).

About Garmin

Engineered on the inside for life on the outside, Garmin products have revolutionized life for runners, cyclists, swimmers and athletes of all levels and abilities. Committed to developing technology that helps people stay active and elevate performance, Garmin believes every day is an opportunity to innovate and a chance to beat yesterday. Other Garmin fitness brands include Tacx® and Firstbeat Analytics™. For more information, visit Garmin's virtual pressroom at garmin.com/newsroom, email media.relations@garmin.com, or follow us at facebook.com/garmincycle, twitter.com/garminnews, instagram.com/garmincycling, youtube.com/garmin or linkedin.com/company/garmin.

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