

Hello 11<sup>th</sup> Annual “Hug an Athlete” 5k Runners, Walkers, and Rollers!

It’s race week, are you ready?! The weather forecast continues to change, but we are very hopeful for a great day! As of now, Sunday’s forecast is a high of 56 (WSW Winds at 10 to 20 mph) and a 4% chance of precipitation. Please dress appropriately for the weather conditions; we will be holding the race regardless of rain, snow, or cold.



Monitor the Hug an Athlete 5k website, Belvidere Park District (BPD) website, and BPD-Special Recreation and Hug an Athlete 5k Facebook pages for updates on the race. If the race is canceled – it will be announced in these places first, but only due to severe weather conditions. A decision will be made by 6am on Sunday and posted on all of the above sites. An email will also be sent to all runners.

Packet Pick Up on Friday:

Date(s): Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Time(s): 4:00 – 7:00pm  
Location: Belvidere Park District  
Special Rec. Facility  
6581 Revlon Dr, Belvidere, IL 61008

Packet Pick Up on Sunday (Race Day):

Race Day: Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm  
Location: Belvidere Park District  
AJ Johnson Pavilion (Doty Park)  
365 W. Locust St, Belvidere, IL

**Race Day registration will be available for \$40/runner; if you know anyone who would still like to register! Registration will occur via personal smart phone or we will have a laptop available for use.**

Race Day Parking:

There is VERY limited parking in the lot closest to the start/finish line area (ice rink/pavilion). Park only in designated parking stalls within the lot at Doty Park. It is your responsibility to obey all traffic and parking laws.

Alternate Parking Locations:

- Salvation Army: 112 S. State St, Belvidere - across from the Dari Ripple & fire station.
- Sips n' Sprinkles: this is a small lot to the east of Sips n' Sprinkles and across the street from the YMCA. There are stairs/walkway down to Doty Park and the AJ Johnson pavilion on the northwest side of Sips n' Sprinkles. This lot is owned and operated by the Belvidere Park District.
- Burgess St. Boat Ramp and Parking Lot: located on the north side of the river, next to the boat ramp, and across the Kishwaukee River bridge from the 5k start/finish line.

Please arrive in enough time to find a parking spot and to receive your packet and bib/timing chip, if you do not utilize packet pick up on Friday.

Chronomix Computerized Timing:

Use caution when attaching your bib to your clothing – ONLY attach them to the front of your clothing and on the outermost layer. All bib numbers must be in clear view for your score to be correctly entered in the timing system.

Re-fueling Stations:

Water will be provided at about the 1.5 mile marker, which has been generously donated by Mr. Goodwater in Belvidere.

Stay after the race for some hot chocolate & coffee (Sips n' Sprinkles), water (Pepsi of Rockford), cookies, bananas and oranges (Fiesta Market), and more provided by our generous race sponsors!

Results:

Post race results will be sent to runners via email. Official results will be posted on Race Time’s website by 8pm, the night of the race. You can check results by going to <http://tinyurl.com/2mrnks76>. The results link will also be available on our website at [www.huganathlete5k.org](http://www.huganathlete5k.org), at this time.

### Awards:

**As in past years and the spirit of our race - we will wait for the last runner to cross the finish line to hand out awards and door prizes.**

- Overall male & female race finishers will receive a plaque (donated by Twin Towers/Barry T's) and a \$50 gift card from Fleet Feet.
- Male & female top 3 finishers for each age group (after overall male & female): (5-12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 & older) will receive medals.
- Special race awards (oldest, youngest, turtle, most spirit) will receive certificates & prizes.



**Don't forget that we have a few awards & entry prizes, which are not related to the age divisions above. Stay a bit as you enjoy post-race goodies to see if you are a lucky winner!**

Since this is a fundraiser, awards will not be mailed if you do not stay to receive your medal. We will notify you via email if you have received an award and they will be available for pick up at the Belvidere Park District Special Recreation Facility (6581 Revlon Dr, Belvidere) on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

### Athlete Huggers:

There will be several athlete “huggers” at the finish line. If hugs are not your thing, please feel free to give a high five or fist bump as you cross the finish! Athletes look forward to this event each year and are very excited to be able to cheer you on through your finish.

### Riverside Ice Arena:

Hang around after the race and enjoy the Riverside Ice Rink. Everyone will receive a free pass in their swag bags. Skate rentals are \$5. Admission for non-runners is \$5 for 18 & Older, \$3 for 4–17 year olds, and free for anyone 3 & under. The rink is open on February 26<sup>th</sup> for public skate from 12pm–7pm. If you are unable to skate after the race, the coupon is good through March 4<sup>th</sup>. After that, the rink will be closed for the season.

In the meantime, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Good luck on race day and we look forward to seeing you!

### **Katie Humphrey, CPRP, ADAC**

Special Recreation Manager

Belvidere Park District

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[www.huganathlete5k.org](http://www.huganathlete5k.org)

**\*\*IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE DURING THE RACE CONTACT: 815-298-0452\*\***

