



CHANGING THE COURSE OF



KC

CHANGING THE COURSE OF OKC

As our city continues to change, we are asking you to join us in ***Changing the Course*** of OKC. With the development of the streetcar system, a new downtown park and so much new growth along the course, we have listened to runners and are changing the course of the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in 2019 and 2020.

The Start Line remains the same – in front of the OKC National Memorial & Museum, but the Finish Line changes. Runners have loved ending in Automobile Alley for 18 years and we have all enjoyed watching that section of Broadway transform to what it is today. However, the race has simply outgrown the space and organizers don't want to become any more of an impediment to thriving small businesses. The Memorial Marathon is so grateful for all the Automobile Alley merchants have done to accommodate the race, but as the city changes, the Marathon course has to change with it.

The Finish Line for 2019 will be at the corner of Hudson and Sheridan – the southwest corner of Devon Energy. In 2020, the five races of the OKC Memorial Marathon will finish at the new Scissortail Park. This allows the changing of the course and testing it ahead of the Marathon's 20th Anniversary in 2020.

The biggest change is we're running south of downtown, to the Oklahoma River. 21 persons who were killed in the 1995 bombing lived in south Oklahoma City. The race includes more parts of the city, something OKC Mayor David Holt appreciates, "The Memorial Marathon is a cultural touchstone for our community. At its core it is a remembrance of April 19, 1995 and it's a symbol for our city. The course changes show all parts of this city matter and all people in this city matter. And I'm thrilled that we will now take this course to south Oklahoma City, through the heart of the Latino community and that everybody, if they didn't already, can certainly feel part of this event and this city's culture."

Runners will head south on Walker, cross the bridge, pass historic Little Flower Church and then run between the new Lower Scissortail Park and the Oklahoma River. Hopefully, you can catch the sun rising over downtown OKC as you head back north on Robinson.

Marathoners, Half Marathoners and Relayers will still run past the Capitol, then up Gorilla Hill and enjoy all the craziness of this neighborhood's terrific support.

Runners asked for other major changes along the course. Marathoners will no longer run to or along Lake Hefner. We're winding people through wider streets, trying to keep more neighborhoods open. A new addition is running under the 23rd Street tunnel, then heading north on Harvey to Sparrow Park. For the first time, Marathoners and Half Marathoners will run on parallel streets as they head downtown – Marathoners on Classen and Half Marathoners on Shartel. All will join at NW 4th, then head south on Hudson to the new Finish Line. You'll still get that great *Oklahoma Standard* feel with new cheer zones throughout the course.

This new finish allows the runners to run on one of the widest corridors in downtown and finish just outside Myriad Gardens, where there will be a wonderful Finish Line Festival with an outdoor concert, food, Full and Half Marathoners finisher shirts and all of the other amenities needed following a race of this magnitude. They will also be within walking distance to almost every downtown hotel. The Streetcars and EMBARK busses will be running as well to help move people around Oklahoma City.

There's also a special incentive for Marathoners and Half Marathoners that want to help us ***Change the Course of OKC*** by running both in 2019 and 2020. They'll receive a special bib and a special Challenge Coin, as they cross the Finish Line in 2020 in Scissortail Park! The Challenge coin and all the medals are designed and manufactured by MTM Recognition, an Oklahoma company. Take this challenge and help us ***Change the Course of OKC***!

The 5K is one of the largest 5K races in Oklahoma, and its course will change as well – running through downtown, Automobile Alley, and crossing the same new Finish Line at Devon Energy.

And Governor Kevin Stitt has issued a brand new challenge for all Relayers this year. In his *State of the State* address, the new Governor announced a partnership with the OKC Memorial Marathon, and his participation in a nonpartisan relay team. The relay team that wins the Marathon will join him for lunch at the Governor's Mansion later this year.

The Kids Marathon will take a different route this year to avoid construction and the changes to the new Marathon route, but will still be an incredible downtown race among the skyscrapers and end in the beautiful newly redesigned Kerr Park, as it has the past two years.

All of this leads runners to finishing in or near the new Scissortail Park in 2020 where they can enjoy a festival atmosphere and gather with family and friends to celebrate their accomplishments as they #RUNtoREMEMBER.

For a unique view of the course changes, check out a new illustration on display in the Devon Tower streetscape windows along the Finish Line on Hudson. The Marathon and Devon commissioned the artwork by local artist Arjan Jager. You can enjoy these murals through race weekend.

And if you don't want to run, there's still a place for you in the Memorial Marathon – more than 3,500 volunteers are needed throughout the entire race weekend.

This is a lot of change, but Oklahoma City is changing and we want you to be a part of it! ***Come help us Change the Course of OKC!*** Go to okcMarathon.com to register to run or volunteer.

MEDIA CONTACT

Mary Ann Eckstein
405-235-3083