A Message to Our YMCA Race Community

Dear YMCA Race Participants, Volunteers, Sponsors, and Friends,

It is with heavy hearts that we share the difficult decision to transition our upcoming in-person race to a virtual event.

This was not an easy decision. In fact, it is one of the most difficult decisions we have had to make regarding an event that means so much to our YMCA and the community we serve.

Our race represents so much of what is good about the Y. It is about bringing people together, celebrating health and wellness, encouraging one another, building connections, and demonstrating the incredible power of community. It is a day when individuals and families come together, friendships are strengthened, and our shared commitment to making our community stronger comes to life. Quite simply, this event embodies the spirit of the Y.

That is what makes this decision so painful.

Unfortunately, the current and anticipated weather conditions have created significant safety concerns. Wind advisories, strong and sustained winds, reported wind damage, downed wires, and other hazardous conditions have made it unsafe to proceed with the race as originally planned. After careful consideration, we believe the responsible decision is to prioritize the safety of everyone involved. The well-being of our participants, volunteers, staff, and community must always come first.

While we are deeply disappointed that we will not experience the excitement and energy of gathering together in person, we are committed to keeping the spirit of this event alive. We will pivot to a virtual race platform, allowing participants to complete their race while supporting the mission and purpose behind this special event. Everyone is invited to complete the virtual race through **December 6** on our RaceJoy platform and attend an awards ceremony, where medals will be given to our top runners. Packet and t-shirt pickup will be available any time our Y is open, including this evening. Just come by, and the staff will be glad to help you with any questions you may have regarding the virtual race.

We recognize that a virtual race is not the same as standing together at the starting line, hearing the encouragement of fellow runners, and celebrating each other's accomplishments at the finish. We will miss those moments tremendously. But we also know that the spirit of the Y is not defined by a location or a starting line. It is defined by the people who show up, support one another, overcome challenges, and remain committed to something bigger than themselves. We are asking all runners to send in a photo of themselves to be shared on our Turkey Chase website and displayed in our branch. Join us to celebrate together on **Sunday, December 6, at 12:00pm** in the YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase Community Room.

As much of the proceeds have been spent preparing for the race, including the race t-shirt commemorating 44 years, please know that the remainder of the funds will go toward serving our communities and those in need, providing financial assistance and summer camp scholarships, and offering community health and wellness programs, often at no charge for seniors. Funds will also support Rotary grants that benefit local nonprofits. In addition, the Y will provide food baskets and gift cards to more than 240 families.

We are grateful for your understanding, flexibility, and continued support. To our participants, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners, thank you for believing in this event and in the Y. Your commitment is what makes this race meaningful, and we hope you will join us in embracing this change.

Even though we cannot come together as planned, we can still move forward together. Thank you for helping us demonstrate that community, resilience, and the Y spirit are stronger than any one event or circumstance.

With sincere appreciation,

Tracy Miller
Vice President of Operations

You're Invited: Join Us for the Virtual Turkey Chase!

Run your race on your own schedule, wherever you are, any time **through Sunday, December 6**, and help keep the spirit of the Turkey Chase alive.

📦 Packet & T-Shirt Pickup

- Pick up your packet and t-shirt **any time the Y is open, including this evening**.
- Just stop by. Our staff will be glad to help with any questions about the virtual race.

🏆 Celebration & Awards Ceremony

- Join us on **Sunday, December 6, at 12:00pm** in the **Community Room** at YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase.
- We'll celebrate together and award **medals to our top runners**.

📸 Share Your Run

- Email a photo of yourself running to **member.service@ymcadc.org**. We'll share it on the Turkey Chase website, **www.turkeychase.com**, and display it at our branch.

📱 Recording Your Results with the RaceJoy App

If you'd like your time recorded, follow these steps. Your results will be submitted automatically.

1. **Download the app.** Get RaceJoy from the App Store or Google Play.
2. **Find your race.** Open the app and find our event under Featured Races or with the search bar.
3. **Set up tracking.** Tap "I Want to Be Tracked," choose the course(s) you plan to run, and follow the prompts. You'll need your bib number.
4. **Get your phone ready.** Charge your battery fully, turn off Wi-Fi, and close any apps you don't need. iPhone users will need to set Location Services to "Always" and turn on Background App Refresh.
5. **Turn on tracking.** Within 30 minutes of your start, open the app and tap the blinking green button.
6. **Start your race.** As you begin, tap "Start My Race." This step is optional but gives a more accurate start time. If you skip it, the app will start your time at the one-mile mark.
7. **Carry your phone the whole way.** GPS tracking only works if your phone is with you.
8. **Finish strong!** When you complete the set distance, the app will stop your clock and submit your time automatically.

YMCA of Metropolitan Washington | 1325 W St NW Suite A | Washington , DC 20009 US

Unsubscribe | Constant Contact Data Notice