

# BQ.2 Marathon Races

#1 Qualifiers in the USA



## 2026 Last Chance BQ.2 Runner's Guide

## Welcome, Boston Hopefuls!

As runners, we know how important Boston is to you and we know what it takes to get there.

We've been there ourselves and we've helped thousands of runners get there in our years with the Fox Valley Marathon Races and BQ.2 Chicagoland Marathon Races.

The BQ.2 Marathon Races Team is here to give you every advantage that we can to help you reach your best qualifying time possible.

Everything about the races— date, time of day, course, fellow runners, start, aid stations, bottle stations, pace teams, bibs—are designed to get you to Boston with a time far enough below your qualifying time to make the final cut.

Good luck as you aim for your dream. We'll be cheering you on!



## Schedule

**Saturday, September 5, 2026**

**Race Village, Fabyan Forest Preserve**

**1925 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL**

Early Packet Pickup

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Course Preview Jog

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Sunday, September 6, 2026**

**Race Village, Fabyan Forest Preserve**

**1925 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL**

5:15 a.m. - Packet Pickup Begins

5:45 a.m. - Elite Bottle Placement Opens

6:30 a.m. - Race Starts

11 a.m. - Race Ends



## Important Race Information

1. Bring your ID when you pick up your packet on 9/5 or 9/6. [See the packet pickup location.](#)
2. Race morning is Sunday 9/6, with a 6:30 a.m. start time. [See the race location.](#)
3. All elite bottles are considered single use. Runners may bring up to 7 of their own or purchase them at Saturday Packet Pickup. Bottles will not be available for purchase on race morning.
  - \$3 each, cash only
  - \$20 online purchase for 7 bottles.
4. Headphones are allowed on the course.



## Course Preview Jog



**Saturday, September 5, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Fabyan Forest Preserve West Pavilion**  
**1925 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL**

- One loop of the course (about 3 miles) at an easy pace.
- Free, no registration required.
- A great chance to see the course, parking, and race village to reduce race morning stress.
- Bottle taping station.
- Race official Q&A.
- Led by the Dick Pond Racing Team.

Head to Dick Pond Athletics if any gear was forgotten or needs to be replaced.

<https://www.dickpondathletics.com/st-charles/>

## Course

The course is 8 clockwise loops with 1 spur that must be completed twice before the first loop. Be particularly aware at mile 1.2 (turning left) and mile 1.9 (turning right). The first few runners may be lapping the last few and turning different directions. Don't just follow the runner in front of you. See the map for the location of this spur.

### **It is your responsibility to know the course!**

Volunteers will be at every turn the first two laps, but it's your responsibility to know where you are on the course. Don't just follow the runner in front of you.

**Please stay to the right on the path and always leave space to the left for passing runners. At most, please run two abreast. Finisher's chute will be on the left.**

The course is on a public trail system. There will be bikes, dog walkers, and others on the path. Please be respectful of other path users so they are respectful of you. This course map and a course video can be viewed [here](#).



## Packet Pickup

### Pre-race pickup

Race Village, 1925 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva

Saturday 9/5, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Race Village Pavillion

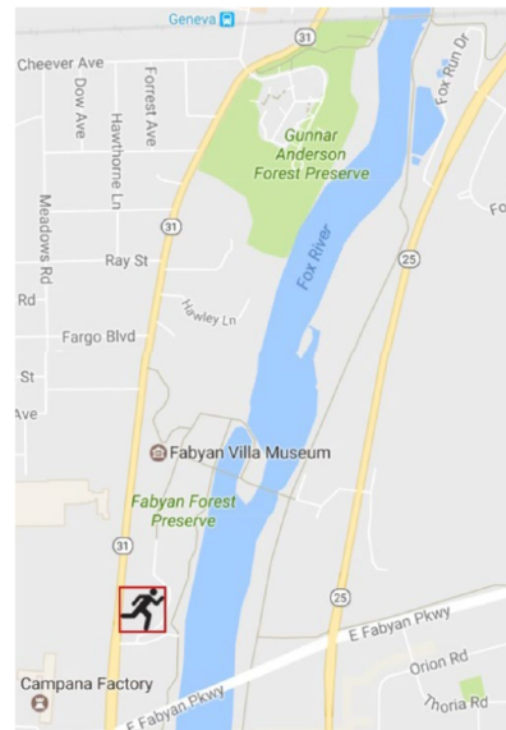
### Race day pickup

Sunday 9/6

5:15 a.m. - 6:15 a.m.

### Race Village Parking Lot

- Photo ID with birth date is required (e.g., driver's license) to pick up your packet. . Date of birth must match your registration data.
- Only the registered runner will be able to pick up a packet



## Race Morning Details

**WARNING! Park across the street (1950 S. Batavia Ave.) on race morning in designated spaces only. Anyone parking on driveways or grass will be towed and disqualified!**



To the right is a map showing areas for:

- Runner parking
- Start and finish area
- Packet pick-up
- Elite water bottle tables
- Bathrooms and gear check
- Information

Additional parking and washrooms with no lines or short lines are located at 1500 Crissey Ave, Batavia, IL. A short walk across the footbridge will lead to the Start/Finish Area.



## Race Packet

### Packet Contents

- Race bib with timing chip and tags.
- Gear check bag.
- Official race shirt
- Safety pins.

### Race Shirt

The race shirt is a gender-specific performance tech shirt. You can exchange your shirt in its original bag or purchase additional shirts at the Race Pavilion. You can have a friend exchange/purchase during or exchange/buy after the race, subject to availability.

## Gear Check

Attach the gear check tag from your race packet on the bag you received at packet pickup. We can accept only a gear check bag, labeled with a tag that matches the bib number of the runner dropping off the bag.

Volunteers will watch your bags carefully, but we don't recommend checking any valuables and **all bags are left at your own risk.**

Please respect the parks and preserves. Any items dropped during the race will not be recoverable.

- Discard items at one of the 16 aid stations along the loop.
- Please do not drop any clothing, bottles, cups, or gel packs anywhere else along the course.
- Do not leave any bags unattended. They will be treated as suspicious and will be discarded.

## Runner Tracking

Friends and family can track your progress at ...

[https://register.chronotrack.com/event/tracking/  
eventID/93612](https://register.chronotrack.com/event/tracking/eventID/93612)

## Bibs and Timing Tag

Your **bib with timing tag must be in full** view for gear check bag drop-off and pickup, and access to aid stations along the course and for timing your run. Do not remove or cover it.

**A special thanks goes to The Preserve of Geneva for years of hosting BQ.2 Marathon Races parking needs.**



The Preserve of Geneva  
*Geneva's largest office location*

**Only the registered runner may wear the bib assigned to them.** You may not transfer your bib to another runner in any way.

Anyone running with a bib for which they are not registered will be disqualified from this race as well as future races. The original bib registrant will also be disqualified from future races.

**A special thanks goes to Run and Race Safety for attending to medical needs of our runners.**

## Elite Water Bottles

- Runners may bring up to 7 of their own disposable bottles, purchase 7 for \$20 online, or purchase bottles for \$3 each at Saturday packet pickup. Bottles will not be available for purchase on race morning.
- Bottles are considered disposable and will not be returned to runners
- Volunteers will direct you how to mark your bottles at Saturday's early packet pickup, the course preview run, or race morning.
- Volunteers will help set up the bottles on race morning. Bottles will be organized on 10 numbered tables based on the LAST digit of your bib #.
  - Table 1: bibs xxx01, xxx11
  - Table 2: bibs xxx02, xxx12



- **Grab your bottle as you run by each lap.** Unique colors or tape make your bottle easy to spot.
- Drink while you run and **toss your bottle in the drop zone** about 300 meters beyond the last table.
- **All bottles are considered single use and will be discarded once tossed in the drop zone.**
- An aid station is available shortly after the drop zone in case you miss your bottle on any loop.
- If a friend is handing you your own personal water bottle, they must do this in a different area and may not use the bottle zone (to avoid congestion).



## Aid Stations

You will pass **16 aid stations** on this 8 loop course. Only registered runners with official race bibs will be served.

- **Water, Lemon-Lime Gatorade** at each Aid Station, 16 times, **two stations per loop**.
- **Gel** Energy Zone 8 times, one per loop. Honey Stinger strawberry with caffeine and Honey Stinger gold without caffeine. These are located just before the elite bottle station and North station.
- **Bananas** at South station, beginning lap 4.
- **Oranges** at South aid station, beginning lap 5.
- **Ice** if temperatures warrant: >68 degrees F at North



## Pace Groups

We're excited to announce that Dick Pond Athletics will provide the Pace Team for the BQ.2 Marathon Races! Pacers will target a finish time 4 minutes under your qualifying standard for 2027, so that finishing with your group not only gets you a qualifying time, but a time that will get you into Boston. [Learn more about the pace team.](#)



If you would like to find someone within the race to run with, your bibs are numbered based on your Boston Qualifying standard for 2026. Feel free to communicate with other runners in your wave or out on the course.

A sample bib is shown below. **The first 3 digits of each bib indicate a pace group**, i.e. 3:45 for Amanda.



## Post Race

**Congratulations on a great run!**



Note: A valid bib and timing chip are required for all post race amenities.

### Finish Line

Immediately at the finish line you will have self-serve access to:

- Blankets
- Finisher medals
- Water and Gatorade

If you need to lay down, there will be a designated area. **If you need medical assistance, communicate this to a volunteer.**

## Results

Preliminary results are available by scanning your bib QR code, by asking a volunteer at the race pavilion or checking our [website](#).

We will submit results to Boston as soon as they are confirmed and official.

A scrolling display of preliminary finish times with Boston qualification status and cushion under qualifying standard will be in the pavilion.



## Race Village

Once you have cleared the immediate finish area, the race village offers:

- **Water and Gatorade**
- **Food** to help you recover and celebrate. Chocolate milk and PB&J sandwiches are a runner favorite.
- **Photo ops** are available at the **BQ Bell** area to capture your accomplishment.

## Runner Tracking

Friends and family can easily track you throughout the race via text or Facebook messaging, thanks to Chronotrack and the 8-loop course.

**Sign up for runner tracking.**

## Awards

Because the focused goal of this race is to help you secure your spot in the Boston Marathon, there will be no age group awards. Male and female champions will receive awards.

## Finisher Medals

All finishers will receive a beautiful finisher medal in the familiar blue, yellow, and silver theme.

## Spectating

The 8-loop course makes it a great spectator race. Bring friends and family to help cheer you on. They can set up a blanket or lawn chairs in a beautiful riverfront park setting and see you 8 times without moving. **Parking in Fabyan Forest Preserve West is for credentialed volunteers only until 7 a.m.**

Spectators can park in the runner parking area (across Rte 31 from Fabyan West) based on space availability. **Spectators may also park on the east side of Fabyan Forest Preserve** (east of the Fox River). Please yield to runners while crossing the pedestrian bridge. Foot traffic over the pedestrian bridge could impede the runners.

**Parking is also available in Batavia (south end of the loop)** on the west side of the Fox River on or near Houston Street for spectators who wish to see you in another part of the course.

**Spectators are asked not to use the pedestrian bridge over the river in Batavia** near Houston Street to avoid impeding the runners. Instead, walk 1/2 block south and cross the river on Wilson Street.

## Race Integrity

The entire BQ.2 Marathon Races staff of leaders, volunteers, medical staff, and official pacers work hard to give all our runners a safe, equal, and best chance at achieving their goal of qualifying for Boston. To ensure race integrity:

- **Wear your bib with tag at all times.**
- **Bib transfers are not allowed.** Anyone running with a bib for which they are not registered will be disqualified from this race and future races. The original registrant will also be disqualified from future races.
- **Do not run with bicyclists or unregistered personal pacers.** You may be disqualified if this occurs. The course capacity is limited. This practice may interfere with other runners' chances of a good race. Please respect their hard work and good faith efforts to qualify.



## Runner Safety

### Weather

The event will take place regardless of rain or cold weather. Runner or volunteer safety issues may cause delays or cancellation, including forecasts or occurrences of:

- lightning
- a tornado watch/warning
- dangerously hot weather
- public health issues

### Pre-Race Notification System

Delays or cancellations will be announced via the race village public address (PA) system or website and through our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram).

## In-Race Condition Flags

Safety notifications will prominently display at each aid station and at race village showing the current race status via a multi-color flag system. They should be heeded to avoid serious problems.



## Local Amenities

Geneva, Batavia, and St. Charles offer an array of dining and entertainment options while you're in town. Extend your race experience by a few days to see what they have to offer!

- [Geneva, IL Visitor Information](#)
- [St. Charles, IL Dining Guide](#)
- [St. Charles, IL Itineraries](#)
- [St. Charles, IL Breweries](#)
- [Downtown Batavia, IL](#)
- [Chicago, IL](#)

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