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BIG SUR
INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

Big Sur International Marathon 2019 Fact Sheet

- WHAT:** **Big Sur International Marathon – 34th Presentation**
Events include a marathon and marathon relay, as well as 21-Miler, 11-Miler, 12K and 5K walking or running events, and the By-the-Bay 3K fun run (which includes a Monterey County Schools' competition)
- WHEN:** **Sunday, April 28** for marathon and related events (always held the last Sunday in April)
Saturday, April 27 for By-the-Bay 3K
Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27, for Health & Fitness Expo
- WHERE:** The **marathon** and **marathon relay** begin at Big Sur Station in Big Sur (6:45 am)
The **21-Miler** begins at Andrew Molera State Park in Big Sur (6:30 am)
The **11-Miler** begins at Grimes Ranch Highway 1 (7:00 am)
The **12K and 5K** begin on Highway 1 near Rio Rd. in Carmel (7:35 am)
The **3K** begins and ends near Lovers Point Park in Pacific Grove (8 am, Sat. 4/27)
The **Health & Fitness Expo** is held at the Monterey Conference Center at Portola Hotel & Spa (Friday noon-6pm & Saturday 9:30am-6pm)
- PARTICIPANTS:** Approximately 10,000 registered runners in all of Sunday's race events. All events sold out in 2019.
(Registration caps are below; finisher #s will be around 9,000)
- 4,500 registered in marathon includes 425 registered in the Boston 2 Big Sur Challenge and 325 in the Big Sur VIP Program
 - 750 (approximate) registered in marathon relay (200 teams)
 - 1,000 registered in 21-Miler
 - 1,600 registered in 11-Miler
 - 925 registered in 12K
 - 575 registered in 5K
 - 4,500 registered in Schools' 3K (not included in total count)

Runners from all 50 states, D.C., and 37 countries.

- **RUNNER STATS:**

Gender of Entrants:

- Marathon:
 - Female 52%
 - Male 48%
- 21M
 - Female 64%
 - Male 36%
- 11M

- Female 71%
 - Male 29%
- 12K
 - Female 69%
 - Male 31%
- 5K
 - Female 68%
 - Male 32%
- Relay
 - Female 64%
 - Male 36%

AWARDS:

Overall awards will be given to top five male and female finishers and the top three masters (40 & over) male and female based on GUN time. Divisional awards will be based on tag time. (Prize money was eliminated after the 2007 event.)

Special division awards are also given to both male and females three deep in the following categories (based on **CHIP** time):

- Monterey County Runner
- Active Military

Boston 2 Big Sur Challenge Awards will be given five deep to both male and female participants based on the fastest combined Boston and Big Sur times.

Marathon Relay awards Each member of the top three teams in each category will receive an award at the race-day awards ceremony. Teams with fewer than four members are not eligible for awards. There is no “overall” award for the first team to finish, awards are by division only.

RACE HISTORY AND EVENTS:

The Big Sur Marathon began in 1986 with 1,800 runners and has grown in size, stature and number of events since then. The course record of 2:16:39 set in 1987 by Brad Hawthorne still stands today. In 1995 the “Power Walk” was added, and in subsequent years additional walks were added (now “Milers” since participants have the option to either walk or run). A 5K that had welcomed a schools competition for many years spawned a new kids’ 3K run, now in its 11th year in conjunction with the marathon. In 2010, the 25th presentation of the race, the Boston 2 Big Sur Challenge was introduced and the 400-person field filled quickly. In March 2011, a small but significant portion of Highway 1 collapsed forcing race organizers to implement an “out and back” course (a similar event and subsequent course alteration occurred in 1998). The race has achieved Gold Certification from the Council for Responsible Sport for being one of the ‘greenest’ marathons in the country.

The Big Sur Marathon, now celebrating its 34th year, has been called “one of the jewels of American running” and “one of the best running experiences on the planet.” It has received honors as being named one of the country’s top three marathons (along with New York and Boston), the “Best Destination Marathon in North America,” one of the world’s “Top Ten Races To Do Before You Die,” and most recently, “America’s Rave Race for 2018” by RaceRaves

HEALTH & FITNESS

EXPO: The Health & Fitness Expo is located at the Monterey Conference Center adjacent to Portola Hotel & Spa in downtown Monterey. The Expo features Big Sur Marathon merchandise, along with additional running and fitness gear and apparel, nutrition items, race information, bib and shirt pick up, and more. Expo hours are 12-6 p.m. Friday, April 26 and 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. The Expo also offers free race clinics featuring host of NPR’s “Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me!” Peter Sagal, nutrition experts from the community, and a panel of past Olympians.

BY-THE-BAY 3K: 4,500 school-aged children and their family members will participate in the By the Bay 3K held Saturday, April 27 at 8 a.m. This event is a complement to the marathon weekend, and offers younger children an opportunity to “just run” for fun. Finishers’ medals, t-shirts, post- race food and festivities are all part of the fun. The By-the-Bay 3K (1.8 miles) is a goal race for the Big Sur Marathon’s JUST RUN® youth fitness program. A Schools’ Competition provides up to \$15,000 in total prize money to local schools based on participation in the event.

MAJOR SPONSORS: HOKA ONE ONE, Active, Dole, Gatorade, GU, Marathon Foto, Monterey Marriott, Recover Brands, The Dempsey Family, BOCO Gear, The Crossroads, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, KSBW Channel 8, KWAV

RACE ORGANIZERS: The Big Sur International Marathon is administered by a staff of six and a core volunteer race committee of 70+ members. Doug Thurston is the race director and executive director of the overall organization. An additional 2,500 local volunteers provide pre-event and race day support.

Proceeds from the Big Sur International Marathon are distributed as grants to non-profit and service groups throughout the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur. Since its inception more than \$5 million has been distributed throughout the community.

