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RECORD FIELD FOR WILLIAM A. IRVIN 5K WILL KICK OFF 2022 GRANDMA'S MARATHON WEEKEND

(DULUTH, MINN.) --- A record field of nearly 2,700 runners will participate in this year's William A. Irvin 5K, which is in its 29th year and again will serve as the kick off race to Grandma's Marathon weekend.

A shift of the finish line location to Bayfront Festival Park, first tried last year during a COVID-modified event, has given organizers more space and allowed them to increase the maximum number for the Friday night race.

“That was a change born out of necessity, with last year's need to keep our participants more socially-distanced, that now has created some real long-term benefits in terms of continuing to grow this race,” Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider said. “It's put into play all kinds of exciting and interesting ideas for the 5K.”

The start line this year is located on Harbor Drive behind the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) and the finish line, same as last year, is at Bayfront Festival Park. The racecourse, which was redesigned in 2016, takes participants on a scenic tour of Duluth's waterfront before running through Canal Park back to the finish line.

Every finisher of this year's William A. Irvin 5K will receive a commemorative medal and finisher shirt. Following the race, participants and spectators will be treated to live music at Bayfront Festival Park, with Pop Rocks scheduled to play from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. That show is free and open to the public.



Also new this year, each finisher will also receive a free drink ticket that can be redeemed Friday at Bayfront Festival Park.

Media is invited to cover any part of the 2022 William A. Irvin 5K or Friday night entertainment. For interview requests, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via phone at (218) 343-9874 or via email at zach@grandmasmarathon.com.

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ABOUT GRANDMA'S MARATHON

Grandma's Marathon began in 1977 when a group of local runners planned a scenic road race from Two Harbors to Duluth, Minnesota. There were just 150 participants that year, but organizers knew they had discovered something special. Grandma's Marathon weekend draws more than 20,000 participants for its three-race event each June.

The race got its name from the Duluth-based group of famous Grandma's Restaurants, the first major sponsor of the marathon. Over time, the level of sponsorship with the restaurants changed, but the name stayed the same. Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with a 17-member Board of Directors and a nine-person, full-time staff.



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