



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# EXPANDED KIDS' PROGRAMMING PLANNED FOR 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GRANDMA'S MARATHON WEEKEND

## *First-Ever YAF Festival for Kids on Friday Afternoon*

**(DULUTH, MINN.)** --- Kids will have more opportunities to participate in Grandma's Marathon weekend than ever before, as the organization announced today the first-ever YAF Festival for Kids will be part of the weekend schedule in 2022.

The event, sponsored by the Young Athletes Foundation (YAF), will run from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 17 at Bayfront Festival Park and will feature several different engaging and interactive booths for kids, including the following:

- Minnesota Vikings – Meet Viktor the Viking and the Cheerleaders
- Lake Superior Zoo – Live Animals (weather permitting) and Giant Inflatables
- Great Lakes Aquarium – Live Animals (weather permitting)
- Positive Energy Outdoors – Climbing Wall (ages 4 and older only)
- Lightspeed Lift – Weight-Assisted Treadmill
- Ski Hut – Balloon Animals and Bike Demos
- Face Painting and Bounce House Inflatables

There is also a "Turtle Trot" scheduled for 1:45 p.m. (weather permitting) at the Great Lakes Aquarium tent, and there will be live main stage acts as follows:

- 2:00 p.m. – Jeremy Lepak, Ventriloquist Comedian
- 3:00 p.m. – Mr. Kite and the Flyers



On-site registration and check-in for the Whipper Snapper Races for Kids will begin at 12:00 p.m., with the races scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. That event will start with the annual mascot race and then move to the kids' races, going from youngest to oldest.

Each registered participant will receive an official race number, finisher medal, and goodie bag, and they will also automatically be entered in a raffle for an authentic Minnesota Vikings helmet autographed by Dalvin Cook. The winner will be announced between acts on the main stage at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Food and drinks will be available throughout the event courtesy of the Black Woods Group and King of Creams.

Media is invited to cover all portions of the 2022 Whipper Snapper Races for Kids and YAF Festival for Kids. For any other information or interview requests, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via phone at (218) 343-9874 or via email at [zach@grandmasmarathon.com](mailto: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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