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GRANDMA'S MARATHON NOW SITS AS 10TH LARGEST IN UNITED STATES

1st Time in Nation's Top 10 for Northern Minnesota Road Race

(DULUTH, MINN.) --- For the first time in the event's history, Grandma's Marathon has cracked the top 10 list of largest 26.2-mile road races in the United States.

With 6,690 finishers in its 2023 race, Grandma's Marathon moved up two spots from a year ago and now sits 10th among the nation's largest marathons.

"It's not only cause for celebration but also serves as a way to quantify, in a way, just how remarkable and important our community has been to help this event grow to be one of the biggest in the nation," Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider said. "To see Duluth on this list alongside big metropolitan areas such as New York City, Chicago, and Boston should bring a smile to anyone who has ever had a hand, big or small, in Grandma's Marathon."

The 2023 Grandma's Marathon was the 10th largest in the event's 47-year history – there were eight straight years with 6,700+ finishers from 2001-08, and the largest-ever event came in 2016 with 7,518 finishers for the 40th annual race.

In total, more than 235,000 participants have crossed the finish in Duluth's Canal Park since the start of Grandma's Marathon in 1977. If the current pace continues, event organizers expect that total to reach the quarter million mark during the 50th annual event scheduled for June 2026.

LARGEST MARATHONS IN THE UNITED STATES (2023)

1. New York City Marathon	51,297
2. Chicago Marathon	48,574
3. Boston Marathon	26,600
4. Los Angeles Marathon	16,973
5. Honolulu Marathon	15,140



6. Marine Corps Marathon	13,662
7. Walt Disney Marathon	12,690
8. Philadelphia Marathon	11,412
9. California International Marathon	9,223
10. Grandma's Marathon	6,690

For any questions or 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. After seeing just 150 participants that year, the race weekend has now grown into one of the largest in the United States and welcomes 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. In addition to the 26.2-mile race, the organization has now added the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon and William A. Irvin 5K to its weekend offerings.

As the popularity of Grandma's Marathon has grown, our mission has stayed the same – to organize, promote, and deliver annual events and programs that cultivate running, educational, social, and charitable opportunities to our communities.

Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with a nine-person, full-time staff and a 17-member Board of Directors.



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