

Advocate Health Care

Charity Runner Guide

Bank of America Chicago Marathon | Team Advocate | 2027

A runner-friendly guide for fundraising, registration, expo, race day and contact details.

Need help?

Contact Jacquelyn Sarich at acf-charityteam@aah.org for Team Advocate charity runner questions.

At-a-glance

Welcome to Team Advocate! Use this guide to understand key fundraising requirements, registration support, important race-weekend logistics and where to go for help.

- Fundraising minimum of **\$2,500 is required** to participate in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon.
- Fundraising deadline: Friday, September 10, 2027.
- **NEW** this year, runners who do not meet or surpass the fundraising minimum by September 10 will result in their payment card on file to be charged the remaining balance on September 11.
- Cancellation policy:
 - Advocate Health Care does **not** allow deferrals to a future race year except for runners who need to cancel due to being pregnant, recently pregnant or postpartum.
 - All event fees, if applicable, are non-refundable and will not be applied to a future event.
 - If a runner decides to withdraw from the race before August 1 may do so without penalty.
 - If a runner decides to withdraw from the race beginning August 1, they will be charged \$500 unless they have surpassed through fundraising.
 - All donations are non-refundable should a runner withdraw.
- Packet pickup is in person at the Abbott Health & Fitness Expo at McCormick Place and must be picked up by the runner. Participant packets will **not** be mailed.
- The Advocate Health Care charity running team hosts a race-day tent near the start corrals with private gear check and pre-race refreshments.

Runner Timeline

Quick view

Key dates below are pulled from the 2027 runner FAQ and race operations notes. Items marked TBD or “more information to come” should be updated when finalized.

Date / Timing	Milestone	What runners should know
October 8, 2026	Registration opens	Runners must complete a two-step application process. The first step is completing the Advocate Health Care Microsoft Form, the second and final step is to complete the Bank of America Chicago Marathon application.
January, 2027	Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) registration opens	Advocate Health Care provides complimentary registration for interested runners once \$300 in fundraising is reached. More information will be shared.
Monday, February 1, 2027	Suggested fundraising marker	To keep runners on track, we recommend a target of reaching 25% of their fundraising goal
Saturday, May 1, 2027	Suggested fundraising marker	To keep runners on track, we recommend a target of reaching 50% of their fundraising goal
Summer 2027	Team shirt mailing	Team shirts will be ordered in the summer and mailed to participants; more details to come.
Thursday, July 1, 2027	Suggested fundraising marker	To keep runners on track, we recommend a target of reaching 75% of their fundraising goal
Saturday, July 31, 2027	Withdraw deadline	Deadline for runners to drop with no penalty
August, 2027	Preliminary corral assignments	Preliminary corral assignments are provided. Runners will be able to request a change. More information will be provided.
Friday, September 10, 2027	Fundraising deadline	Fundraising minimum must be reached by this date. Failure to reach the fundraising minimum will result in your credit card being charged the remaining balance.
September, 2027	Team Advocate tent RSVP	RSVP request for our Team Advocate tent will be sent to all runners.
September 30, 2027	Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) registration opens	Registration for the CARA Training Program closes.
Thursday, October 7, 2027	Expo Day 1	Chicago Marathon Health & Fitness Expo at McCormick Place, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Times are subject to change)
Friday, October 8, 2027	Expo Day 2	Abbott Health & Fitness Expo at McCormick Place, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Times are subject to change)
Saturday, October 9, 2027	Expo Day 3	Abbott Health & Fitness Expo at McCormick Place, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Times are subject to change)
Sunday, October 10, 2027	Race day	Bank of America Chicago Marathon; Team Advocate tent near the start corrals. More information will be provided at a later date.

Fundraising & Donations

Fundraising basics

Question	Answer / Runner guidance
What is the fundraising minimum?	\$2,500
When is the fundraising deadline?	Friday, September 10, 2027.
What if I do not reach my minimum?	If the minimum is not received on or before September 10, 2027, the runner's credit card will be charged the remaining balance.
Where can checks be mailed?	Advocate Charitable Foundation, Attn: 2027 Chicago Marathon, 2025 Windsor Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60523. Include a note with the runner's name.
How can I check my fundraising total?	Log in to your Given Gain fundraising page.
How can I find out about matching gifts?	Check with your human resources department to see whether your company offers a matching gift program and confirm any restrictions. For matching gift requests, use the company name Advocate Charitable Foundation.
How will I be notified when an offline donation is received?	All offline donations, including checks and matching gifts, will be added to your fundraising page once the donation has been received. Please note, matching gifts may take 1 – 2 months following the company's approval. **If you submit for a matching gift and it will not be received prior to the fundraising deadline, notify Jacquelyn Sarich at acf-charityteam@aah.org to ensure your credit card is not charged.
I am a teammate with Advocate Health; does Advocate Health provide fundraising assistance?	No, Advocate Health does not provide fundraising assistance.
What if I do not want my credit card to be charged for the remaining balance?	Failure to comply with the agreed upon commitment will result in your bib being pulled and therefore not allowing you to participate in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon until the fundraising minimum is met.
I am a returning runner with Advocate Health Care, why has the process changed to automatically charge credit cards?	Generous supporters like you are making a powerful difference for patients and families across our communities every single day. Our charity running team is an important fundraising group for Advocate Health Care and our charity incurs non-refundable costs associated with each registration. This change in process allows us to move in the direction of many participating charities ensuring all runners adhere to the requirements set by the Bank of America Chicago Marathon therefore not allowing runners who have not met the requirements to participate.

Registration & Fundraising Page Support

Runner account support

Question	Answer / Runner guidance
Can I register as an individual or team?	Yes, runners can choose to register as an individual or join a team.

What are the steps to complete the application?	All interested runners must first complete the Advocate Health Care interest form. Once complete a team member will review and provide next steps, pending available entries. If there are entries available and the runner has agreed to the fundraising terms and conditions, an application link will be provided. If there are entries available and the runner has not agreed to the fundraising terms and conditions, Advocate Health Care has the right to not provide an application to the runner. If there are no available entries, the runner will be added to our waitlist, the placement in line is first come, first serve.
Is there an application deadline?	Yes. All entries are first come, first serve. Runners will have 2 weeks to complete the Bank of America Chicago Marathon application, failure to complete will result in you being moved to the waitlist. Advocate Health Care does not hold or reserve entries. The official close date for our charity team, pending available entries, is September 10, 2027. Be reminded, entries will sell quickly, it is best to complete the application as soon as possible.
Do teams change the fundraising minimum?	No. Each individual who completes registration for Team Advocate is responsible for reaching the required minimum. Team goals should be adjusted to reflect the individual fundraising, for example if you have 5 runners on a team, the team goal would be \$12,500.
I applied but cannot access my fundraising page. What should I do?	Confirm that you completed the second required application through the unique link provided to you, for assistance email acf-charityteam@aah.org. Once confirmed visit the Given Gain Support Center for further assistance.
My fundraising page updates are not showing. What should I do?	Visit the Given Gain Support Center for further assistance.
I need to change my estimated race time.	If the incorrect race time was entered through BOA, email office@chicagomarathon.com.

Cancellation, Deferrals & Refunds

Cancellation policy

Question	Answer / Runner guidance
Can I defer to 2028 if I need to cancel?	Advocate Health Care does not allow deferrals with the exception of runners who need to cancel due to being pregnant, recently pregnant or postpartum.
Am I still responsible for fundraising if I cancel?	This depends on when you cancel your entry. If you cancel before August 1 there is no penalty to withdraw, if you cancel on or after August 1, you will be required to reach \$500. Advocate Health Care will charge the remaining balance to the credit card on file, if you have met or surpassed the \$500, there are no further steps.
Can I get a refund if I cancel?	Applicable fees for registering and all donations are non-refundable.

Are there pregnancy/postpartum cancellation options?	Yes. Advocate Health Care follows event policies and permits a deferral exception for runners who are pregnant, recently pregnant or postpartum. Email acf-charityteam@advocatehealth.org to begin the process.
Are there exceptions with medical documentation?	No. There are no exceptions.
Can I undo a cancellation?	No. Once registration is canceled, the decision cannot be undone.

Race Weekend Details

Expo, packet pickup and race day

Question	Answer / Runner guidance
Does Advocate Health Care have a room block?	No. Visit the Bank of America Chicago Marathon website and use the hotel block link under the runners tab.
When is the race?	Sunday, October 10, 2027.
When will I receive my Team Advocate shirt?	Team shirts will be ordered in the summer and mailed to participants. More information will be provided later.
When can I pick up my packet?	Race organizers will send an email one week before Expo. Packet pickup is in person at the Abbott Health & Fitness Expo, Thursday, October 7 through Saturday, October 9, at McCormick Place.
Can someone pick up my bib for me?	No. For safety and security, each runner must pick up their own bib in person and show ID. Please note that the name on the ID must match the name used in your registration.
Does Team Advocate host a race-day tent?	Yes. The tent is near the start corrals and offers private gear check and pre-race refreshments. Friends and family can meet runners there post-race. Directions and map will be provided later.

Expo & Race-Day Engagement

Planned Advocate Health Care activations

Expo activation information will be shared closer to the Abbott Health & Fitness Expo. Race-day activations include the Advocate Health Care Cheer Zone, post-race party and recovery station.

Activation overview

Question	Answer / Runner guidance
Expo activation	More information will be shared closer to the Abbott Health & Fitness Expo.
Cheer Zone	More information will be shared closer to race weekend.
27th Miles - Post-race party	More information will be shared closer to race weekend.

Key Links & Contacts

Resources

Question	Answer / Runner guidance
Given Gain - Advocate Health Care fundraising page	Log in to your fundraising page here .
Fundraising tips	Use the fundraising tips page on the Advocate Charitable Foundation marathon site.
Team member benefits	Use the team member benefits page on the Advocate Charitable Foundation marathon site.
Fundraising page questions and troubleshooting	Visit the Given Gain Support Center for further assistance.
Team Advocate questions	Jacquelyn Sarich acf-charityteam@advocatehealth.org
Estimated race time changes	office@chicagomarathon.com

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