



2026 ATHLETE GUIDE



PRESENTED BY:



Alpine Bank

GRAND JUNCTION

SPORTS COMMISSION

LETTER FROM THE EVENT DIRECTOR

Dear Runners,

My name is Ben Snyder and I'm the Executive Director for the Grand Junction Sports Commission. I am so excited to see you at the start line on November 1st to run the 30th annual Rim Rock Marathon and Half Marathon presented by Alpine Bank. It's your time to be MONUMENTAL!

Over the last 12 months our team has worked hard and planned extensively to make this event happen and ensure you have the best experience possible. Whether this is your 100th race or your first, this is your day and we're proud to be joining you in this incredible accomplishment. This event is unique because of the separate Start & Finish locations as well as the gear drop program, so please read this athlete guide in its entirety to ensure the best race day experience.

This event takes a lot of collaboration and I want to first highlight a couple of our partners. The Colorado National Monument and their staff are incredible to work with. Obviously, we could not hold this event without their support. Given the current government shutdown, we have planned accordingly to provide the highest level of safety for all athletes, residents, and traffic.

Additionally, the Mesa County Sheriff's Office and their Citizen's on Patrol program are instrumental in keeping you safe. Make sure to say thank you as you go by, or give them a high five! Our friends with the City of Fruita continue to support this event and provide a lot of assistance behind the scenes. Alpine Bank is back as the title sponsor for this event- they give back so much to the local community and we're grateful for their financial support. Intermountain Health is providing medical support throughout the event- they continue to go above and beyond in their partnership with the Sports Commission. And last but not least, the Colorado Mesa University Track & Field team are the event volunteers and will help you out along each step of the race. Be sure to thank all of these partners as you see them.

The Sports Commission is a local nonprofit and we are focused on driving sports tourism and creating events in Mesa County. We are honored to put on this event and consider you all part of our family. Because of your participation, this year's race is the largest field we've seen for the Rim Rock Marathon and Half Marathon.

This is an incredibly scenic race, I hope you can push past the pain and despair to enjoy the views. You will earn that finisher medal and we will have food and drink waiting for you at the finish line. Have a great race and encourage others along the way, we will be cheering for you as well. Thank you for being a part of our adventure. Good luck runners!

Ben Snyder

GRAND JUNCTION

SPORTS COMMISSION

Online registration closes October 30th. Spread the word to your family and friends to register TODAY!

PACKET PICKUP

Saturday, October 31, 2026 (highly encouraged)

- 3:00pm - 6:00pm
- Location: Fruita Community Center, Fruita, CO
- Address: 324 N. Coulson St, Fruita, CO.



Sunday, November 1st, 2026

- 6:00am-6:30am - Marathon
- 6:00am-7:45am - Half-Marathon
- Location: Fruita Community Center, Fruita, CO

REMINDER
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ON
11/1

RACE DETAILS

MARATHON START TIME: 7:30AM [View Route Details](#)

- It is your responsibility to be there, checked in, and ready to leave on the bus by **6:40am**.

HALF-MARATHON START TIME: 9:00AM [View Route Details](#)

- It is your responsibility to be there, checked in, and ready to leave on the bus by **8:00am**.

***PARKING/SHUTTLE INFORMATION & OFFICIAL RACE MAPS BELOW. GEAR DROP SERVICES PROVIDED.**
THERE IS NO PARKING AT EITHER START LINE AREA.

BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR:



Alpine Bank

If you have any questions, please email info@grandjunctionsports.org or call us at (970)-639-1387.

GRAND JUNCTION
SPORTS COMMISSION

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EVENT PARKING & SHUTTLE INFO.

- PARK at Shelledy Elementary School adjacent from Fruita Community Center (FCC). There is additional parking at the FCC (where you finish).
- **REMINDER: There is NO parking at either Start Line!**
 - Full Marathon: You may be dropped off at the Devil's Kitchen Trailhead parking lot across the street from the start and walk over to the start line. The East Entrance to the Colorado National Monument will close at 7:15am.
 - Half Marathon: There is no parking or drop off option for the half marathon. You are required to ride the bus.
- **Marathon:** On Sunday morning, we will bus marathoners to the Start Line from the FCC. **ALL** buses will depart the FCC by 6:40 am. **It is your responsibility to be there, checked in, and ready to leave on the bus at 6:40 am.** If you miss the buses, you're on your own to get to Start Line.
- **Half-Marathon:** On Sunday morning, we will bus half-marathoners to the Start Line from the FCC. **ALL** buses will depart the FCC by 8:00am. **It is your responsibility to be there, checked in, and ready to leave on the bus at 8:00am.**
- We do not have the capacity to shuttle family/friends to the start. Plan accordingly.
- Packet pick-up on Saturday evening is **highly encouraged** to make sure you don't miss the shuttles.

SPECTATING

- No spectating is allowed on the Colorado National Monument due to safety concerns. We recommend spectating at James M. Robb State Park or the FCC. All traffic in the Colorado National Monument will be traveling eastbound and must follow traffic laws.
- Signs & noise makers are highly encouraged, but please no confetti. Please make sure you do not leave any signage or trash behind.
- Just a reminder, there is **NO PARKING** at either Start Line.

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GEAR DROP

- Runners may drop clothing at their appropriate **Start Line**, the **Red Canyon Overlook** Aid Station - #2, and the **Monument Canyon View** Aid Station - #5
- Runners who drop clothing at their appropriate **Start Line** will have their gear ready at the Finish Line (FCC) by the time they finish (you'll see it go with the lead vehicle).
- Runners who drop clothing at **designated aid stations** will only have their gear returned after 1:00pm (may be earlier, not guaranteed). You may also plan to pick up from the Grand Junction Sports Commission within two weeks from race day.

RACE RULES

- **Cut-off times** - If you do not reach these locations by the designated times, you will be asked to stop running and transportation will be provided to the finish line.
 - Red Canyon Overlook Aid Station - **9:15am** (Full Marathon)
 - Highland View Aid Station - **11:00am** (Full Marathon)
 - Saddlehorn Aid Station - **12:30pm** (Full & Half Marathon Cutoff)
- **Running Lane** - All runners must stay in the closed westbound (right) lane over the Monument. Please stay to the right as you run. This includes warming up. Any runner observed crossing the yellow lines, even in warmup, will be DQ'd. Outside the Monument, participants will run along the left shoulder against traffic on Hwy 340 and then enter the trail system through James M. Robb State Park to the finish. **Traffic will be open in both directions on Highway 340.**
- Mile markers will be placed every 2 miles on the side of the road throughout the course. This is not a USATF sanctioned event. Volunteers, A Frame signs, and sidewalk chalk will be in place at any turns or confusing sections.
- **Race Numbers** - Participants must wear their number on the **front** of their body.
- **Prohibited items** - Baby strollers/joggers, dogs, and bikes are not allowed on the course.

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AID STATIONS - MARATHON

- There are a total of **8** aid stations along the course (distance approximate).
- They are listed below and a map of the aid stations is attached below:
 1. Mile 3.2: Cold Shivers Point Overlook *
 2. Mile 6.0: Red Canyon Overlook *^ (9:15am Cutoff) (gear drop)
 3. Mile 8.8: Fallen Rock Overlook
 4. Mile 12.2: Highland View ^ (11:00 am Cutoff)
 5. Mile 14.9: Monument Canyon View (gear drop)
 6. Mile 17.9: Saddlehorn Entrance*^ (12:30pm Cutoff)
 7. Mile 20.4: Balanced Rock View
 8. Mile 24.6: James M. Robb State Park *^

* denotes portable restrooms
^ denotes medical staff located on course (4 on the course)
- Each aid station will have water and Tailwind. If you require additional energy, please plan accordingly.
- **Help us keep the Colorado National Monument clean so we can continue to host this great event. Runners must dispose of trash and cups at the aid station trash can.**

AID STATIONS - HALF MARATHON

- There are a total of **4** aid stations along the course (distance approximate).
- They are listed below and a map of the aid stations is attached below:
 1. Mile 1.4: Monument Canyon View (gear drop)
 2. Mile 4.4: Saddlehorn Entrance*^ (12:30pm Cutoff)
 3. Mile 6.9: Balanced Rock View
 4. Mile 11.1: James M. Robb State Park*^

* denotes portable restrooms
^ denotes medical staff located on the course (2 on the course)
- Each aid station will have water and Tailwind. If you require additional energy, please plan accordingly.
- **Help us keep the Colorado National Monument clean so we can continue to host this great event. Runners must dispose of trash and cups at the aid station trash can.**

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AWARDS

- Age Groups: 19 and Under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+
- Overall Awards:
 - Full Marathon: 1st Place Men's + Women's- \$500
 - Half Marathon: 1st Place Men's + Women's- \$300
- Marathon Overall & Half Marathon (Overall and AG) - **11:30am**
- Marathon Age Group - **1:30pm**

INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION

- Rim Rock long-sleeve quarter-zip
- Finisher medal
- Post-race party at the Fruita Community Center
- One free beer ticket (must be 21 years of age or older)
- Vendor swag
- One Meal Ticket for post-race food and drinks (Post race sandwiches powered by Jimmy Johns, chips, bananas, etc.)
- All runners will have access to the Fruita Community Center facilities after the race starting at 12PM. This includes hot tub, pool, and locker rooms. FCC entrance is only for athletes, not friends/family.
- A **MONUMENTAL** experience running in western Colorado

PHOTOGRAPHY

- There will be photographers and a videographer stationed and roaming throughout the course, so give them your best smile!
- Photos will be free to download after the event via GeoSnapShot using the link on our website.

OTHER DETAILS

- Results will be posted to the event website www.grandjunctionsports.org/rimrockmarathon
- All participants will receive a survey following the event. We welcome all feedback and suggestions!
- The CMU Track & Field Team is supporting this event and providing over 80 volunteers. Please be kind to them and thank them for their time!
- Have fun and encourage others, this could be a **MONUMENTAL** life moment.

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(left turn onto N Coulson St from Gewont Ln to finish at the Fruita Community Center)

(under I-70 using Little Salt Wash Trail)

(left turn into James M. Robb State Park)

(left turn onto Broadway)

Coke Ovens Overlook

Colorado National Monument



26.2 MARATHON

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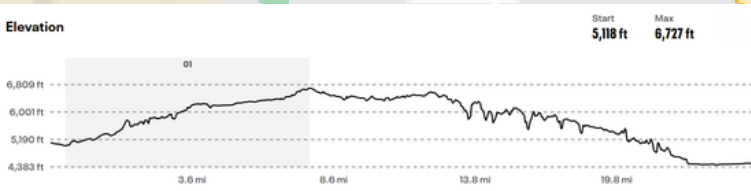
KEY:

-  = START
Devil's Kitchen Picnic Area (Colorado National Monument)
-  = FINISH
Fruita Community Center
-  = MILE MARKERS
-  = AID STATIONS

AID STATIONS:

	Mile	Location	Medical	Porta Potty
1	3.2	Cold Shivers Point Overlook		
2	6.0	Red Canyon Overlook (Gear Drop)		
3	8.8	Fallen Rock Overlook*		
4	12.2	Highland View*		 1 mile past at Artist's Point
5	14.9	Monument Canyon View (Gear Drop)		
6	17.9	Saddlehorn Entrance		
7	20.4	Balanced Rock View*		
8	24.6	James M. Robb State Park		

(All aid stations will be supplied with water and Tailwind.)
(*indicates aid stations with Honey Stinger energy chews)



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(right turn out of Devil's Kitchen Picnic Area onto Rimrock Dr)



13.1 HALF MARATHON

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KEY:



= START

Near Artist Point (Colorado National Monument)



= FINISH

Fruita Community Center



= MILE MARKERS



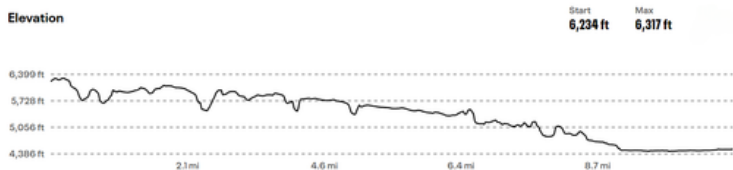
= AID STATIONS

AID STATIONS:

	Mile	Location	Medical	Porta Potty
1	1.4	Monument Canyon View (Gear Drop)		
2	4.4	Saddlehorn Entrance	+	♂ ♀
3	6.9	Balanced Rock View*		
4	11.1	James M. Robb State Park	+	♂ ♀

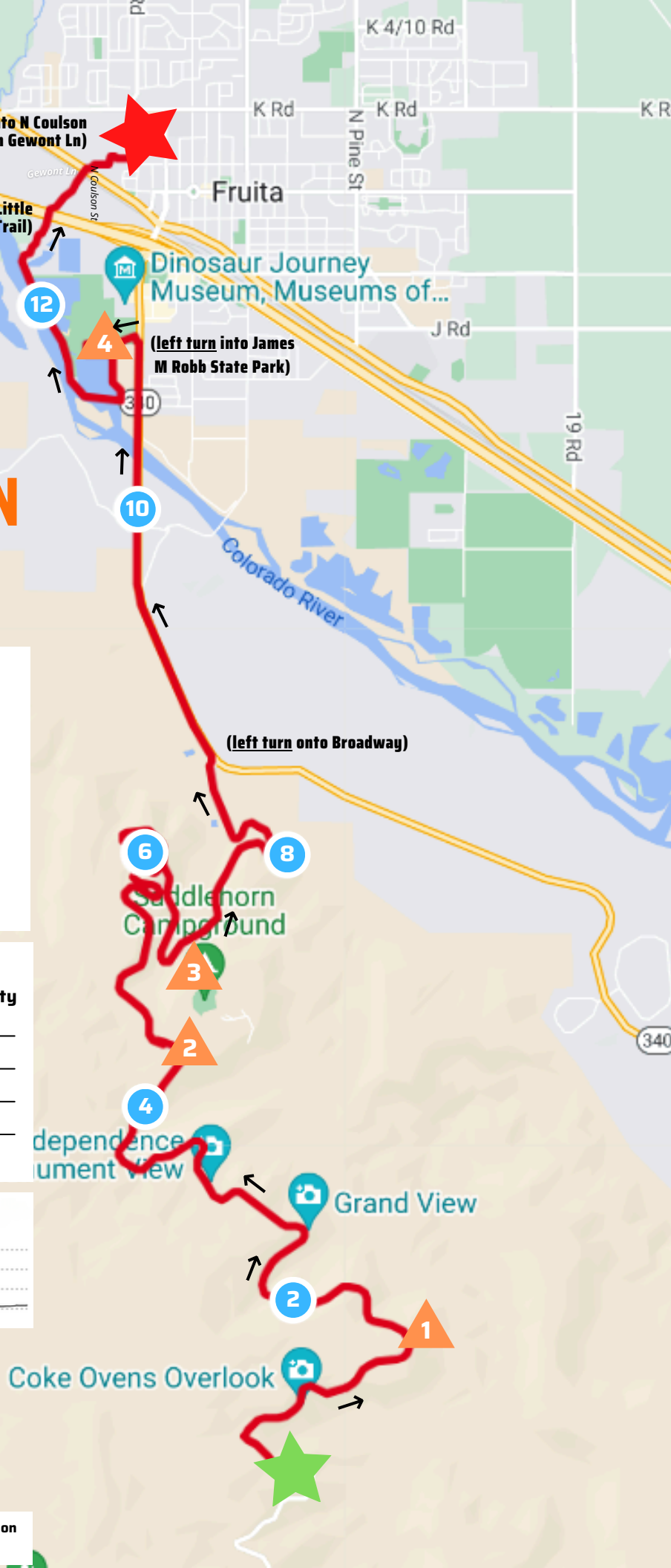
(All aid stations will be supplied with water and Tailwind.)

(*indicates aid station with Honey Stinger energy chews)



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2026 MERCH

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
AT PACKET PICKUP!

A SNEAK PEAK

