2026 Gingersnap 5K Event Guide



Presented by:

NOVANT HEALTH

Race Morning at a Glance

Saturday, November 21, 2026

8:00 AM start in Downtown Waxhaw

202 W. North Main Street, Waxhaw, NC 28173

See page 3 for packet pickup and page 5 for parking

Dear Gingersnap 5K Participants,

The staff and Board of Directors of Girls on the Run of Union County are so grateful for your support. Thanks to you, we are able to bring our community together for the Gingersnap 5K in partnership with the Town of Waxhaw.

At the heart of the day are the Girls on the Run participants. As each one crosses the finish line, she'll see what she can accomplish with determination, encouragement, and a community cheering her on. We believe every girl has unlimited potential, and your support helps make sure every girl who wants to participate can be there, regardless of her family's financial situation.

We hope this guide helps you feel ready and excited for the Gingersnap 5K. Thank you for helping make this community celebration possible and for showing the girls what can happen when we come together to support them.

With appreciation,

Kerry Guley
Executive Director

Girls on the Run of Union County
105 S Main Street
Monroe, NC 28112
(M) 704-465-0011
www.girlsontherununion.org

Schedule, Registration & Packet Pickup

Race Morning Schedule

6:00 AM	Sponsor setup in Partner Village
6:30 AM	Race day packet pickup and registration open
7:00 AM	Girls on the Run participants begin to arrive
7:40 AM	Participants begin lining up for the start
7:50 AM	Warmup and welcome
7:55 AM	National anthem
8:00 AM	5K starts
9:00 AM	Awards begin as all winners in each category finish

Registration and Packet Pickup

Register online on Race Roster or register in person at packet pickup.

Thursday, November 19 | 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Girls on the Run of Union County office
New location at 105 S. Main Street, Monroe, NC 28112

Friday, November 20 | 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Novant Health Waxhaw lobby
3614 Providence Road, Waxhaw, NC 28173

Saturday, November 21 | 6:30 AM to 7:45 AM
Pickup tent on N. Church Street. See the event site map on page 6.

Thursday or Friday pickup is encouraged. Saturday pickup is limited.
If you pick up Saturday, aim to arrive near 6:30 AM so you can line up at 7:40 AM.

Who Registers and Where to Get Your Bib?

Girls on the Run participants	Already registered. Get your bib from your coach.
Girls on the Run coaches	Already registered. Bibs will be given as you turn in your team bag
Running buddies	Register and pick up your bib at packet pickup.
Community runners and walkers	Register and pick up your bib at packet pickup.

Each Girls on the Run participant must have a registered running buddy.

Please wear your race bib visibly on the front of your clothing throughout the 5K.
A visible race bib is required to be on the course and receive a finisher medal.

Weather and Personal Belongings:The event will go on rain or shine and we will not have a weather makeup date. Dress in layers. **Bag check and personal item storage will not be available at the race.**

RACE WEEKEND WEATHER HISTORY

Waxhaw, NC | Saturday before Thanksgiving

DATE	HIGH	LOW
Nov 20, 2021	55°F	30°F
Nov 19, 2022	56°F	31°F
Nov 18, 2023	76°F	51°F
Nov 23, 2024	62°F	39°F
Nov 22, 2025	80°F	63°F



Pet Policy: 🚫We love pets, but they are not permitted for this event.🚫

Event Location & Parking

Start and finish in Downtown Waxhaw

202 W. North Main Street, Waxhaw, NC 28173

Accessible parking is available at 200 McDonald Street.

Street parking is available off the course. Please keep local business lots clear.

EVENT PARKING



Please do not park in local business lots on race day, even for a quick drop-off. Thank you for being considerate of the businesses in Waxhaw.

Event Site Map

Find packet pickup, team areas, restrooms, and Partner Village.



Race morning landmarks

Packet pickup and registration are on N. Church Street at the race site.

The start and finish are on W. North Main Street near N. Church Street.

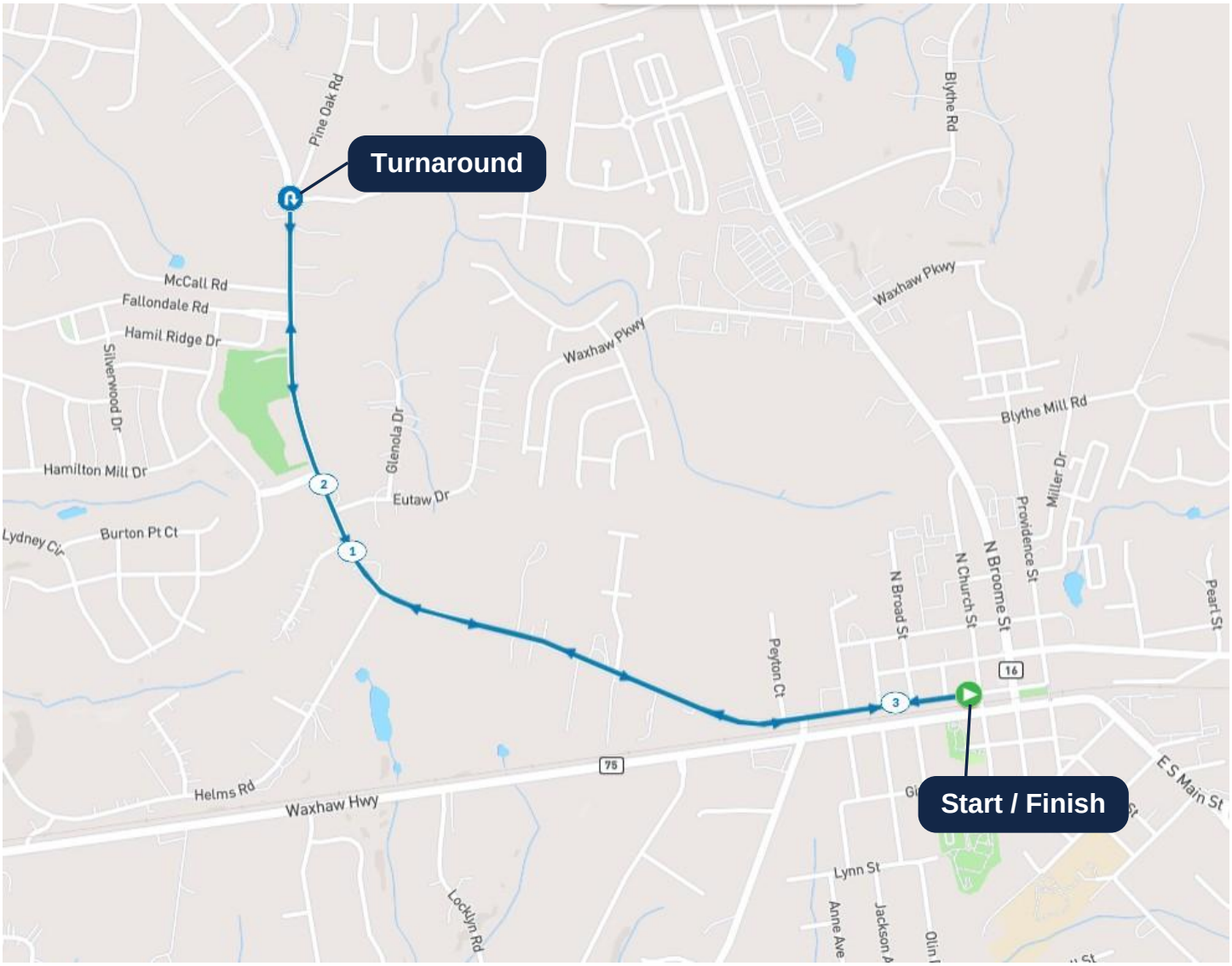
Partner Village is on W. North Main Street, east of N. Church Street.

2026 Course Map

Construction prompted a route update this year. The 5K is an out and back from W. North Main Street to the turnaround on Pine Oak Road.The race has split timing at the turnaround point.

[Open the interactive course map]

[Open the ShaZam Racing app]



Stay to the right in your direction of travel. Runners and walkers share the road in both directions.



The 2026 Gingersnap 5K is featuring the latest in real-time race tracking by providing Live Results via our partner *ShaZam Racing - tracker*.

Features Include:

Live Web Tracker - See times and current pace within seconds of a participant crossing each split point. Estimated times will be provided based on current pace.

Live Leaderboard - See who is winning via the Live Leaderboard. Top runners in each category will be displayed in real-time as they lead the way through the course.

Live Map Tracking - Participant locations will be plotted on the Interactive Course Map as progress is made on course. The position of each participant is estimated based on the most recent timing received from the bib read. NOTE: Participants do not need to carry their phones for this feature to work.

Mobile App - Features include Live Participant Tracking, Push Notifications, Leaderboards, Map Tracking, Event Messages, Event Info and more!

ShaZam Racing Mobile App

PLEASE NOTE: Times posted during the event are Unofficial. Official results are posted upon completion of the event.

Thank you to our Gingersnap 5K Partners!

Presenting Partner

NOVANT HEALTH

Confidence In Motion Partner

BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

Finish Line Partners

cigna healthcare

JETTON & MEREDITH ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ACTIONPLUS IDEAS
Branded Products & Apparel

WASTE PRO
Caring For Our Communities

morningstar STORAGE

WAXHAW Est. 1889

Mile Marker Partners

Kate's Skating Rinks est. 1961

Huntington LEARNING CENTER

MATHNASIUM The Math Learning Center

MAGICAL Milestones Pediatric Rehab

corepower YOGA

HOTWORX 24 HOUR INFRARED FITNESS STUDIO WAXHAW - INDIAN TRAIL

FS8 PILATES · TONE · YOGA

Timing by: ShaZam racing

Photography by: if it's digital PHOTOGRAPHY

DJ & MC: CEASE FIRE PRODUCTIONS

Bib Partner: FLEET FEET CHARLOTTE

5K Race Etiquette & Important Information

We want everyone to have a safe, fun, and memorable race experience! Whether you're running, jogging, walking, or pushing a stroller, these friendly reminders will help keep everyone moving safely and enjoying the day.

🏃 Find Your Starting Spot
Faster runners are encouraged to line up toward the front, while walkers and participants with strollers should start toward the back. This helps everyone find their pace and enjoy a smooth start.

🎽 Registered Participants Only
For everyone's safety, only registered participants wearing their official race bib are permitted on the course. Please wear your bib visibly on the front of your clothing throughout the race. Anyone on the course without an official race bib will be kindly asked to exit the course. This helps our race team maintain a safe, organized experience for all participants. Thank you for understanding.

👟 Start Smart, Finish Strong
The excitement at the starting line is contagious. Begin at a comfortable pace, find your rhythm, and save some energy for a strong finish.

💧 Stay Hydrated
A water station will be available along the course, and bottled water will be waiting for you at the finish line. Be sure to hydrate before and after the race, too!

✅ Be Ready to Run
Double-check those shoelaces before the race begins. If you need to adjust your shoes or gear along the course, simply step safely to the side.

➡️ Share the Course and Stay to the Right
Our 5K course is a two-way route, with participants traveling in both directions on the same road. Please **stay to the right in your direction of travel** to allow plenty of room for oncoming runners and walkers.

If you're running or walking with a group, please avoid spreading across the roadway. When passing another participant, check for oncoming runners, announce "Passing on your left," and return to the right when it's safe.

Staying aware of those around you helps keep the course safe and enjoyable for everyone!

🚶 Slow Down Safely
Need a walking break, a quick rest, or a moment to catch your breath? No problem! Move toward the right side of the course before slowing or stopping so others can continue safely.

🏁 Keep Moving Through the Finish Line
You did it! Celebrate your accomplishment while continuing forward through the finish chute. Pick up your water and snack, then make your way to our Partner Village to enjoy the festivities!

👋 **Spectators, We Love Your Support!**
Family, friends, and spectators are encouraged to cheer on our participants! For everyone's safety, please **remain off the roadway and outside the race course at all times**, especially near the finish line. Keeping the road and finish chute clear allows participants to finish safely and gives everyone their well-deserved moment to shine. Please cheer from designated spectator areas and follow directions from race volunteers and staff. Your encouragement makes race day extra special!

🙆 **Celebrate Your Finish**
Take a few minutes to walk, cool down, hydrate, and stretch gently after your race. Your body will thank you!

❤️ **Encourage One Another**
Cheer on fellow participants, share a smile, thank our volunteers, and enjoy every step. Whether you're chasing a personal record or making memories with family and friends, we're excited to have you with us!

If you have any questions or need assistance, please email: info@gotrunioncounty.org

We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Gingersnap 5K!