CHASING UTOPIA
RACE CO

OFFICIAL ATHLETE GUIDE · INAUGURAL EDITION

The Utopia *Turkey Burner*

5K Run & 1 Mile Walk · Thanksgiving Morning · Utopia, Texas

DATE	START
Thu, Nov 26	8:00 AM
START & FINISH	**DISTANCES**
Utopia Square	5K · 1 Mile

THE CHASE IS EVERYTHING.

WHAT'S AHEAD

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01 · FROM THE FOUNDER

A Note From Ally

ALLY MCDEAVITT, FOUNDER

Yes, I am THAT person. The one who started a turkey trot. And no, I am not sorry about it.

I have done a lot of races, and my favorite part has never been the medal. It's the challenge of getting up early when every part of me wants to sleep. Pulling on my training clothes in the dark. Pushing past the anxiety that builds before any race, no matter how many I've done. And then the people. The ones running next to me, the ones cheering from the side of the road, and the ones swapping stories with me at the finish.

Moving to Utopia inspired the name, but Sir Thomas More said it best when he coined the term back in 1516. A utopia is a perfect place that doesn't quite exist, which means you never really arrive. You just keep chasing it, and you become someone better along the way.

That definition is what keeps us going. The pursuit. The chase. Every reason to be out there counts, whether it's your first 5K, a walk with your family, or a head start on the pie.

I'm still new to this community, and I know the traditions here run deep. I'm not here to change any of them. I just want to add one more reason to get together on Thanksgiving morning before the turkey goes in.

My hope is that this becomes a tradition for my family and for yours. The kind of morning your kids drag you out of bed for ten years from now. Run it, walk it, push a stroller, bring the dog, wear something ridiculous.

Thank you for showing up for the very first one. Let's make it a good one.

Ally McDeavitt

FOUNDER, CHASING UTOPIA RACE CO

02 · RACE WEEK LOGISTICS

Race Schedule

WED · NOV 25
5:00–6:00 PM

Early Bib Pickup

Bluum Digital, 343 Main Street. Grab your bib the night before and roll into race morning with nothing to do but show up.

THU · NOV 26
7:30 AM

Park, Then Pick Up

Park at the Utopia ISD school parking lot, 258 School Ln, Utopia, TX 78884. Walk over to Utopia Square. Bib pickup and day-of registration are near the starting line. Bathrooms are available at check-in and the starting line.

THU · NOV 26
8:00 AM

Start: 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk

Both events start and finish at Utopia Square.

THU · NOV 26
8:30 AM

Post Race Celebration

The celebration is already underway at the finish line.

THU · NOV 26
9:00 AM

Awards & Celebration

Awards for the top three overall 5K finishers and Best Dressed.

03 · BIBS, ENTRIES & INCLUSIONS

Bib Pickup & Entry

Early Pickup

Wednesday, November 25, 5:00 to 6:00 PM at Bluum Digital, 343 Main Street.

Race Morning

Thursday from 7:30 AM at Utopia Square, near the starting line. Day-of registration and bathrooms are there too.

Parking

Utopia ISD school parking lot, 258 School Ln, Utopia, TX 78884. It is a short walk to the Square.

ENTRY · SAME PRICE FOR THE 5K AND THE 1 MILE

ADULTS

$35

- Race shirt
- Finisher medal
- Expo bag with turkey swag, snacks & goodies

TEENS · AGES 11–18

$10

- Finisher medal
- Expo bag with turkey swag, snacks & goodies

KIDS · 10 & UNDER

Free

- Kids coloring bag
- Turkey swag
- Completion ribbon

SHIRTS

Race shirts sold out fast, so we rush ordered more and should have some available on race day. Wrong size? Visit the shirt swap table to exchange for a different size, if it's available.

REGISTERING MORE THAN ONE?

Each participant needs their own form, kids included. Register at chasingutopia.co/register.

04 · KNOW YOUR ROUTE

Course Maps

LEGEND

- 5K Run · 3.11 miles
- 1-Mile Walk · 1.07 miles
- Water station
- Start & finish

BOTH COURSES

Start and finish at Utopia Square. Water in Utopia Park. Park at the Utopia ISD school parking lot, 258 School Ln.

GOOD TO KNOW

Both routes run out and back through town on open roads, so expect local traffic and follow volunteer directions.

5K RUN

3.11 miles · Low 1342 ft · High 1381 ft · 52 ft gain

TURN BY TURN

0.00 Start at Utopia Square and head east on Main Street.
0.01 Turn right (south) on Main Street.
0.04 Turn left (east) on Jackson Street.
0.19 Turn right (south) on Garden Street.
0.37 Turn right (west) on Houston Street.
0.64 Continue onto Utopia Park Road and follow it into Utopia Park.
0.72 Follow Utopia Park Road west through the park.
0.86 Curve northeast along the park loop.
0.96 Pass Johnson Street and stay on the loop.
1.00 Water station on the east side of the park loop.
1.05 Turn left (north) onto Utopia Park Road.
1.23 Continue north on Jackson Street.
1.36 Turn right (east) on Sycamore Street.
1.47 Turn left (north) on Main Street, which becomes Ranch Road 187.
1.76 Turn left (west) on River View Drive.
1.88 Follow River View Drive north.
2.23 Turn right (east) on Jones Cemetery Road.
2.28 Water station on Jones Cemetery Road.
2.30 Turn right (south) on Ranch Road 187.
2.56 Continue south on Ranch Road 187 back into town.
3.09 Turn right (west) into Utopia Square.
3.11 Finish at Utopia Square.

ELEVATION

Elevation is sampled along the mapped route from USGS terrain data. Treat it as a preview of the course, not GPS telemetry.

1-MILE WALK

1.07 miles · Low 1348 ft · High 1364 ft · 24 ft gain

TURN BY TURN

0.00 Start at Utopia Square and head east.
0.01 Turn right (south) on Main Street.
0.22 Turn right (west) on Houston Street.
0.32 Continue onto Utopia Park Road and follow it into Utopia Park.
0.47 Loop through the park on the same route as the 5K.
0.69 Water station on the east side of the park loop.
0.74 Head north on Cypress Street.
0.91 Turn right (east) on Jackson Street.
1.03 Turn left (north) on Main Street.
1.05 Turn left into Utopia Square.
1.07 Finish at Utopia Square.

ELEVATION

Elevation is sampled along the mapped route from USGS terrain data. Treat it as a preview of the course, not GPS telemetry.

OPEN COURSE

This is not a closed road race. Expect local traffic, follow volunteer directions, and stay on the sidewalk on the highway sections of the course. Water stations sit in Utopia Park (both courses) and on Jones Cemetery Road (5K).

05 · A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Turkey Winner

Congrats, *Natalie!*

Thanksgiving dinner is officially handled. Get in touch with us so we can sort out logistics and pickup.

06 · 9:00 AM AT UTOPIA SQUARE

Awards & Celebration

5K OVERALL

Top Three Finishers

We'll recognize the first, second, and third overall finishers in the 5K at 9:00 AM.

OPEN TO ALL

Best Dressed

Turkeys, pilgrims, pies, whatever you've got. Commit to the bit.

The celebration is *the best part.*

Once you cross the finish line, the celebration begins. The finish line is not the end of the morning. It's where the morning gets good. Every finisher earned it, whether you raced for a podium spot or walked the mile with a stroller and a dog.

Stick around for celebratory drinks, music, and good vibes at Utopia Square. Alcoholic drinks are for ages 21 and older.

07 · PACK THE NIGHT BEFORE

Race Week Checklist

- [ ] Pick up your bib Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 PM at Bluum Digital
- [ ] Park at the Utopia ISD school parking lot on race morning
- [ ] Shoes you've already trained in. Race day is no day for new gear
- [ ] Check the forecast Wednesday night. We go rain or shine
- [ ] Leash and water for your dog, if they're joining
- [ ] Pin your bib to the front of your shirt
- [ ] Arrive by 7:30 AM if picking up or registering day of
- [ ] Layers you can shed. Hill Country mornings can start cool
- [ ] A turkey worthy costume for Best Dressed
- [ ] Your camera roll ready for photo ops at the expo

08 · FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS & FANS

Cheer Squad

The people cheering matter just as much as the people racing. Here's how to catch your runners at every big moment, then celebrate with them after.

01
See Them Off

Meet at Utopia Square for the 8:00 AM start. Grab a coffee at the start line and send them off loud.

02
Study The Map

Look over the course map before Thursday and pick your spots along the route to catch your runners as they pass.

03
Catch The Finish

Head back to the Square to welcome them home, then stay for awards, celebratory drinks, music, and good vibes.

09 · READ BEFORE YOU GO

Race Policies

SAFETY

Open Roads

This is not a closed road race. Stay alert for traffic, follow volunteers, and use the sidewalk on any highway section of the course.

WEATHER

Rain or Shine

The race happens in any weather. Refunds are only issued if weather forces us to cancel.

REGISTRATION

One Form Each

Every participant registers separately, kids included, and agrees to the liability waiver.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos & Media

By signing the waiver, you agree that photos of you may be taken and published. If you'd rather not be photographed, let us know.

ON COURSE

Dogs & Strollers

Both are welcome on either course. Dogs must stay on a leash.

UPDATES

Changes

If anything changes before race day, we'll notify every registered participant.

Questions before race morning? Reply to any email we've sent and a real person will answer.

10 · A LOCAL CONNECTION

Giving Back

The parks, schools, and communities of the Hill Country rarely get the support they deserve from larger national or state giving. We want to help change that. Chasing Utopia was built to stay rooted in the place it started. Donations go directly back to the places that make this corner of Texas worth running through.

This first Turkey Burner is where it begins. Donations from this race help build the capital for larger events, so every future race can give more back than the one before it.

STATE NATURAL AREA

Lost Maples

Canyon trails and famous fall color along the Sabinal River.

STATE PARK

Garner

The Frio River gathering place generations of Texans grew up on.

EDUCATION

Our School

The kids who might be lining up for this race in ten years.

COMMUNITY

Utopia

The town, the Square, and the people who make it home.

11 · PRE-ORDER AT THE EXPO OR ONLINE

Shop The Chase

01
Camo Hat

Camo cap with an embroidered logo.

$30

02
Sherpa Bucket Hat

Beige sherpa with a logo patch.

$25

03
Speckled Mug

Speckled ceramic with the brick logo.

$10

04
Long Sleeve

Black, with a topographic back print.

$35

05
Race Tee

The official inaugural Turkey Burner tee.

$20

Pre-order at the expo on race morning or on the shop page at chasingutopia.co/shop.

12 · CHASE IT. FIND IT. RUN IT BACK.

What's Next

SPRING 2027

Chasing Utopia At The Ranch

A full weekend out in the Hill Country, built around the chase and everyone who comes along for it. Pick your distance, pitch a tent, and stay for the music once the miles are done.

Gravel & Trail Ultra

Coming soon. Long gravel rides and ultra distance trail racing through the Hill Country.

Turkey Burner II

Thanksgiving 2027. If this year goes the way we hope, we'll see you back at the Square.

Triathlon, 5K & Walk

Fourth of July, date TBD. A triathlon, plus a 5K and a walk so the whole crew can join in.

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