



We Run Our Community's Kids

Training Our Youth to go the Distance

2021 - 2022 Season Participant Guide



We Run Our Community's Kids (WeROCK) is a nonprofit, community service organization that provides an after-school marathon training program for Middle and High School students located near the Orange County, California area. **WeROCK** is registered with the IRS as a Public Charity under Section 501(c)3 and all donations made are tax deductible to the full extent of the law*. Tax ID #80-0209885.

This *Participant Guide* is provided so that student participants and their parents, coaches and adult volunteers may obtain the most effective and enjoyable experience from the **WeROCK** program. It contains important information about the program's guidelines and requirements, as well as the conduct and level of commitment that are expected from these individuals while participating in the program.

Mission Statement

Based on the idea that life is like a Marathon, the mission of **WeROCK** is to teach our participants the important life skills of goal setting, self-reliance, discipline and self-confidence through the design and delivery of instructional programs focused on the proper training for the sport of endurance running, as well as the completion of several long-distance runs, up to and including a 26.2 mile Marathon.

WeROCK is committed to providing:

Education and ongoing exposure to the most up-to-date health, nutrition and physical fitness information available, via the latest in medical research.

Training for our participants, their parents, coaches and volunteers to ensure that our student runners carry these life lessons with them into and throughout adulthood.

Support for our teams by involving the families and community members of the participants in the training, mentoring and motivation of our runners.

Encouragement to empower our community's youth to accomplish goals well beyond their own initial personal expectations.

The intent of the **WeROCK** program is not to see how fast or how far a participant can run, but rather to teach our student runners how to set their own personal goals, devise a plan to reach those goals, follow the steps toward achieving the goals, and accomplish the task. Although most participants train for a 26.2 Marathon, **WeROCK** is a non-competitive program and participants may elect, after discussion with their parents or family physicians, to set a goal of running a distance shorter than a full marathon. For students who desire to complete only races of less than the full marathon distance, the coaches will tailor the training regimen to meet their individual needs.

Training for marathons and other endurance runs requires significant planning, personal discipline, and perseverance. Participation in the **WeROCK** program will help to improve not only the physical and mental fitness of our runners but also teach them to set and achieve positive goals, develop a greater sense of personal responsibility, and become healthier, more productive citizens both now and into their adult lives. The benefits that a participant can expect to receive from the **WeROCK** program are directly dependent upon the amount of effort and discipline that the runners exercise in following the training regimen and the guidelines in this handbook.



Medical Supervision is Not Provided

The **WeROCK** Board of Directors is comprised of experts in the fields of public education, traditional medicine, medical research, sports fitness & youth training, and in the delivery of youth-oriented and other non-profit programs. These professionals supervise the design and delivery of the training program, however, neither **WeROCK** as an organization, nor any of the members of its Board as individuals, provides any medical services to its participants. All participants **must** receive their medical care and supervision directly from their own personal physician. Program participants are also required to have a medical evaluation performed by a licensed physician prior to participating in the program. An original **WeROCK** *Medical Examination and Clearance Form*, signed by the participant's licensed medical doctor, must be submitted no later than October 15, 2021, for Session 1 and February 11, 2022, for Session 2 in order to remain in the program. Runners without a *Clearance Form* on file after this date will not be allowed to participate in any practices and/or races until the form is submitted.

Qualifying for the program

The **WeROCK** program is open to all male and female Middle and High School students that can attend practice on one of our designated practice sites, ages 11 through 18, on a non-restrictive basis and without regard to race, creed, sexual orientation, religious belief, physical capacity or nationality. While the program promotes a team atmosphere to provide support and encouragement to the participants, there are no try-outs to qualify for the program and all results are measured exclusively on an individual basis, without the requirement for any minimum ranking in order to remain in the program. While we are confident that most participants will be able to complete a full marathon by following the **WeROCK** training program, it is understood that all participants are expected to work according to their own personal abilities and to set their own personal goals.

For the safety of our student runners, and in order to be considered "ready and capable" of completing a full marathon, all participants must demonstrate their ability to complete all races at no more than a 16-minute per mile pace (roughly equivalent to an average, brisk walking pace). In order to achieve this pace, weekday practices should remain at no more than 15-minute per mile. Weekend practices are to always be completed at a 16-minute per mile pace. Participants will also be expected to complete an official **WeROCK 20-mile Qualifying Run** at a 16-minute per mile or faster pace to be cleared to run a Full Marathon. For those students who cannot meet these requirements, **WeROCK**, at its sole discretion, will determine the race distance the runner will be cleared to participate with the group in their finale event. This could be a Half Marathon or 5K.

Participant Responsibilities and Expectations

WeROCK participants are required to adhere to the following guidelines. Students who fail to follow any of the guidelines listed below will be dropped from the program, without a refund of any payments already made.

1. Be dedicated to your training program

Commitment to your training plan is a critical factor in gaining success. **WeROCK** team members are expected to follow the training program, as it has been designed, to avoid injury. To become properly prepared for the completion of a marathon, participants should attempt to attend all practices and complete all mileage listed on the training calendar. Runners who miss practices must make up the mileage on their own and report the mileage to their coach. Participants must show up to practice and races on time and prepared to run with water, nutrition, the proper equipment and a positive attitude.

2. Don't cheat

When you cheat, you only cheat yourself. **WeROCK** is a non-competitive program, and all participants need to be honest with themselves and their coaches about how far they are capable of running. "Cutting the course" is never allowed. If you have concerns about the distances you are being asked to run, please speak with your coach rather than taking shortcuts.

3. Eat a balanced diet

Eating a balanced diet including protein, fruits and vegetables, as well as avoiding sugar during the season, are also a required part of the **WeROCK** training plan. Breakfast is a very important part of a successful long-distance run. Runners are **REQUIRED** to eat breakfast before all morning runs and races.

4. Behave yourself at all times

The behavior of the student-runners who participate in the **WeROCK** program is a direct reflection on the reputation of the program itself and on the students who participate in it. As such, the guiding principle for all **WeROCK** runners is *RESPECT*. **WeROCK** subscribes to the “golden rule” of treating others the way you expect to be treated, and all runners must have the strength of character to behave responsibly in order to be allowed to represent the organization.

Respect takes on many forms:

Respect for Adults

WeROCK team members are expected to always show respect toward adults, whether participating in a sanctioned program activity or not. This respect includes following all rules and instructions given by the coaches and refraining from arguing or talking back. Respect must also be extended to your teachers, parents, and all other adults within the community, at all times.

Respect for Yourself

Respecting yourself is an essential component of self-confidence and will play a key role in completing a marathon. We firmly believe that with the proper attitude and discipline, you can and will complete the **WeROCK** training program and cross a marathon finish line. Being confident, maintaining good grades, getting proper sleep and nutrition, and having high ethical standards are “musts” for **WeROCK** runners.

Respect for your Peers

Whether or not you recognize it, every person you encounter has value. **WeROCK** runners are expected to show continued respect toward their teammates, classmates, neighbors, and siblings and may not tease, taunt, criticize, put down or harass any other student, of any school or age, at any place or time. Bullying or fighting will be cause for immediate removal from the program without any refund of fees already paid. **WeROCK** team members must promote goodwill and always show a positive attitude.

Respect for the Community

Helping to keep our community a desirable and pleasant place in which to live is the duty of every **WeROCK** team member. Runners must show respect for property including their own equipment and the belongings of others. **WeROCK** will not tolerate littering, wasting water, causing damage to public or private property, or creating any nuisances in public.

5. Have proper attire and equipment at all times

WeROCK participants are required to wear the proper attire and carry the necessary equipment that is appropriate for the activity of long-distance running.



Proper Equipment includes all of the following:

Shoes

All **WeROCK** runners must wear shoes specifically designed for the sport of running. Our official Sponsor, *Road Runner Sports*, offers discounts to **WeROCK** members and will be happy to assist you in purchasing running shoes that are properly fit to your feet. Running in any other type of shoe or sneaker can cause injury, therefore students who show up for practice without running shoes will not be allowed to participate on that day and will need to make up the miles missed.

Shorts

Running shorts or running tights are required when running with the team, at both practices and on race days. All **WeROCK** team members must purchase their own solid, BLACK shorts or tights with no stripes or other markings. You may not wear jeans, casual wear or cut-offs to practice or to races. **WeROCK** recommends that you choose running clothing specifically designed to keep moisture and perspiration away from your body. If you forget to bring your BLACK running shorts or tights to practice or to races, expect to sit-out on that day.

Shirts and socks

Participants may wear either the official **WeROCK** training shirt or their school PE shirt during afterschool practice runs. If you choose to do so, wearing a specifically designed running jersey to practice is acceptable, however, please do not show up for practice in your school clothes. On weekend practices runs and on race day, the official **WeROCK** team jersey is REQUIRED. To avoid blisters, socks are always required, and **WeROCK** recommends moisture-wicking fabrics rather than cotton blends in order to reduce the possibility of blisters, rashes and other injuries.

Race-day uniforms

To present the proper appearance when representing our organization in the community, all runners will be required to wear the official **WeROCK** uniform to all races. Race-day jerseys will be provided by **WeROCK** and all team members must wear solid, BLACK shorts or tights with no stripes or other markings. Uniforms must always be kept clean. Additionally, all runners participating in **WeROCK** sponsored events must have an approved race bib which may not be altered in any fashion. Runners not wearing the official **WeROCK** uniform on race day will *not* be given their race bib and will *not* be allowed to participate in the event.

Cold weather gear

On cold weather days, student runners may wear sweats or warm-ups to practices. Running tights and long-sleeve running jerseys are also permissible. On rainy days, a garbage bag or waterproof poncho is recommended. Basic gloves are a great addition on those cold mornings.

Wrist watches

WeROCK runners are required to wear, at all practices and races, a basic digital wrist watch with a stopwatch feature. These can be purchased for as little as \$5 at discount stores such as Target, Wal-Mart and Big Lots.

Nutrition and Hydration supplies

Proper nutrition and hydration are necessary components of the sport of running. All **WeROCK** runners must purchase a reusable water receptacle which allows you to easily carry water and fuel while running. We recommend either a hand-held or belt style water bottle holder. Some participants may also prefer the back-pack version. Regardless of the type chosen, you must bring your hydration pack filled with water and fuel with you to all practices and races to avoid dehydration. **WeROCK** also recommends the consumption of running fuel every hour during practices and long-distance runs. Participants who show up for practice or races without their own water and running fuel will be sent home.



Parent Responsibilities and Expectations

Parents of **WeROCK** participants are required to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Ensure that their student-runner follows all of the expectations listed above
2. Meet all deadlines published on the program calendar
3. Have their student-runner examined and given medical clearance by their family doctor
4. Ensure that your child has the proper shoes, clothing; fuel *AND WATER* at each and every practice and race.
5. Fulfill an Aid Station Volunteer requirement.
Parent participation in the program is **mandatory** and each runner's family will be required to volunteer at least twice per runner at a weekend aid station. In addition, parents are required to volunteer for a least one "additional task".
6. Provide or arrange for transportation for their student runner to all practices and races. Due to budgetary limitations, **WeROCK** will not be able to provide transportation to any of the program events.
7. Pick their child up promptly after practice. Weekend practice pick-up time may vary based on the pace of your runner. Please arrive 15 minutes before their estimated finish time to ensure you are on time.
8. Will not use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs in the presence of **WeROCK** members.

Parents who do not adhere to these guidelines will have their student runners dropped from the program, without a refund of any payments already made.

Attendance and Training Schedule

A complete practice schedule will be provided to all participants at the beginning of the season. Due to circumstances beyond the control of **WeROCK**, the schedule is subject to change without advance notice. Regular attendance at all practices and races is necessary in order to properly prepare for the completion of a marathon.

Practices will be held, rain or shine, on the following days:

Weekdays

Two to three times per week, after school at your school site (or other nearby location as determined by your coach).

Weekends

Actual times, days and locations will be determined by your coach. On most every Saturday there will be a training run, with the mileage of these weekend runs increasing as the season progresses. Races are generally held on weekends, and some events may take place on Sundays.

Missed Practices

In the event that any practices or races are missed, participants must make up their mileage within the week that it is missed and report the mileage to the coach. Regardless of whether the mileage is run as scheduled or made up, the Coach will have discretion to determine when and if a particular **WeROCK** participant is ready to undertake any scheduled races including, but not limited to the Marathon. Missing two Saturday practices in a row will automatically put the runner on possible suspension of the next scheduled race.

ALL MILES, INCLUDING MAKE-UP RUNS ARE EXPECTED TO BE UPLOADED TO STAVA

Missed Races

It is unfortunate when a runner is unable to participate in a race due to illness, injury or life circumstance, however, race shirts, medals and goodie bags will be given **ONLY** to those runners who actually participate in the event and complete the distance on their own power.



Program Costs:

The tuition for the 2021-2022 **WeROCK** training program is as follows:

Session 1A - \$450.00 – New to 21-22 Season

September 14, 2021 thru February 14, 2022
Due at first practice

Session 1B - \$400.00 – Continuing the 21-22 Season

February 15, 2022 thru May 2, 2022
Due by February 15, 2021

Session 2 - \$450.00 – New to 21-22 Season

January 11, 2022 thru May 2, 2022
Due at first practice

Runners interested in participating in the Full Marathon must join in Session 1A and continue with Session 1B. Running a full marathon is not a requirement of the program. Any runner that joins in Session 2 will automatically be on the Half Marathon path.

Delinquent Payments

Payments must be received by the due dates specified above. If any installment payment is not received by the payment due date, all services, including, but not limited to race participation, practices and special events may be withheld by WeROCK until the amount due is paid in full. Installment Plan Agreement must accompany first payment.

Registration deadlines

Session 1A closes on October 15, 2021
Session 1B closes on February 15, 2022
Session 2 closes on February 11, 2022

Fundraising

In order to help individual runners defray or completely cover the costs of their tuition, **WeROCK** plans a number of fundraising events each year. Although participating in the actual activity of raising funds is optional, all **WeROCK** team members and their parents will be asked to assist with the organization and delivery of these fundraising events. Regardless of a runner's planned participation in the Fundraisers, fundraising proceeds will be credited to the second or later installments of program tuition. All **WeROCK** participants must make their initial tuition payment by the due dates listed above.

Scholarships

Scholarships may be available, on a limited basis, dependent upon the availability of funds received from outside grants and donations. If you are interested in providing a Scholarship for a runner who cannot afford the program, please let us know. Scholarship forms due by September 14, 2021 for Session 1 and January 11, 2022 for Session 2.

Individuals who do not have the financial resources available to pay the entire program tuition may submit a *Scholarship Request Form* to ask for a partial Scholarship, however, no guarantees can be made that any Scholarships will be available during the course of the year.

WeROCK is a non-profit, public charity and relies heavily upon donations in order to deliver its important and life changing program to its participants. Donations are tax-deductible under IRS rule 501(C)(3)* and can be made easily on the **WeROCK** website at www.WeRunOCKids.org. Donations are always greatly appreciated.

**Check with your paid tax-preparer regarding your personal tax situation.*

COVID-19 SAFETY:

WeROCK will continue to follow the CDC, local city, county and State of California guidelines for distancing and safety:

CDC (Center of Disease Control) Physical Activity, Sports & Recreation:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/index.html>

CDPH (California Department of Public Health) Covid-19 Industry Guidance for Youth Sports:
<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-youth-sports--en.pdf>

CDC (Center of Disease Control) Need for extra precautions:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

CDC Vaccine Information:
Vaccines are widely available for everyone 12 years and older at no cost. Learn more about getting a vaccine if you are in one of these groups.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups.html>

CDPH (California Department of Public Health) Covid-19 Industry Guidance for Schools & School Based Programs:
<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

WeROCK is excited to continue marathon training with our kids! We have added safety precautions to protect your children including: continuing to distance our runners as needed, continued use of neck gaiters at practice, and isolating teams in the event of an exposure.

We will limit shared equipment for additional safety, each runner is to bring all their own equipment to practice each time, or they will not be allowed to stay at practice.

All runners must be registered in advance and may not join in any sessions that they are not already registered for. No in person registration will be accepted.

Our collective health and safety are our top priority. We are asking for your help in keeping your family and our community safe from Covid-19.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU:

1. Practice and reinforce good prevention habits:
 - a. Avoid close contact with others – even friends
 - b. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then immediately throw in the trash.
 - c. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - d. Keep hands away from your face.
 - e. Help your children understand that “social distancing” is important and why.
2. Prior to arrival, runners are encouraged to:
 - a. Apply sunscreen
 - b. Use the restroom
 - c. Wash hands
 - d. Be prepared with proper running attire
 - e. Neck gaiter around neck
 - f. Water bottle, belt or pack filled with water
 - g. Run wristwatch charged and ready to go (basic stopwatch is fine, GPS not needed)
 - h. If feeling sick, do not attend practice!**
3. Runners buff or neck gaiters for participants are required at all times
 - a. Although the runners must have these around their neck at all times, they are only required to have them up around their face anytime they are unable to maintain safe distance.



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US:

Check-in:

1. There will be a quick screening process to determine if the runner is prepared for practice
2. All materials and equipment provided by WeROCK will be single use items or disinfected between each use.
3. Hand sanitizer will be made readily available

Check-out:

1. WeROCK Coach will officially check the kids OUT upon release to their parent/guardian or approved caretaker

PLAN FOR WHEN SOMEONE BECOMES SICK:

1. Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms will immediately be required to wear a face covering and be required to wait in an isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practical. (if serious symptoms or injury, 911 will be called)
2. Sick staff members and students are not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation, including at least 3 days with no fever, symptoms have improved and at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
3. If a positive Covid-19 case is determined, the POD or group affected will temporarily suspend in person practice. Mileage and workouts will need to be completed independently for all healthy athletes in the POD or group. Interruption of a POD or group can be anywhere from 3-10 days.
 - a. All make-up miles should be uploaded to Strava
4. Any staff or student that exhibits common Covid-19 symptoms or is found to have a fever should immediately self-quarantine and seek out Covid-19 testing.

Please note: The doctors on our board have seen some rare cases of young adults and pediatric patients who have had COVID and developed Kawasaki's or other cardiac conditions. If found to be COVID positive with a fever, this can be an indication for cardiac complications. In certain cases, we may require athletes to be seen and cleared by cardiology before returning to in-person running (and technically any running even on their own).

ATTENDANCE BY NON-WEROCK MEMBERS IS PROHIBITED

WeROCK training runs are designed for **WeROCK** team members and their parents **only**. Due to insurance limitations, we cannot take responsibility for other students who have not registered for the program or who do not have the appropriate paperwork on file. Adults are always encouraged to run with the team, both after school and on weekends, however, friends, neighbors and relatives of our participants who are not adults are prohibited from running with the team.

Any parent wishing to run with the team must have a signed *Waiver and Release of Liability Form* on file, prior to participating. Parents may also take advantage of group discounts and preferred race entrance opportunities by joining the **WeROCK** team along with their child.

THIS IS NOT A SCHOOL DISTRICT SPONSORED PROGRAM

Student Runners of Orange County

DBA: We Run Our Community's Kids, We Run Orange County's Kids - a 501(c)(3) Tax-exempt organization

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