

# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

MEDIA KIT

## ABOUT US

The Pikes Peak Marathon, founded in 1956, is the oldest continually held Marathon in the United States, taking runners from Manitou Springs, Colorado, to the summit of Pikes Peak at 14,115 feet and back down for a total of 26.2 grueling mountain miles.

It and its sister race, the Pikes Peak Ascent, climb 7,815 vertical feet up the historic Barr Trail on the mountain's east face. The Ascent, which climbs 13.3 miles to finish at the summit, used to be held on the same day as the Marathon but became its own event in the 1981 due to its popularity.



## PIKES PEAK MARATHON

**America's Ultimate Challenge!**  
**The country's most challenging Marathon!**

Beginning in downtown Manitou Springs, the course proceeds along approximately 1.5 miles of road before joining Pikes Peak's Barr Trail. This is where the real adventure begins. With an average grade of 11%, the trail is often narrow, winding, or steep, featuring gravel, rock, or dirt with sharp turns and abrupt changes in elevation or direction.

- Oldest continuously held Marathon.
- Featured the first ever female Marathon finisher, Arlene Pieper in 1959.
- Athletes come to the race from 17 countries and 48 states!

## PIKES PEAK ASCENT

**Not A Typical Half Marathon!**

This 13.3 mile race from Manitou Springs, CO to the 14,115 foot summit of Pikes Peak is one tough race!

- Vertical climb of 7,815 feet up historic Barr Trail.
- Average time to hike Pikes Peak: 6-10 hours.
- Record ascent is 02:01:06 set in 1993 by Matt Carpenter of Manitou Springs!
- Race cutoff time is 6 hours and 30 minutes.



# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

## HISTORY

### HISTORY

The Pikes Peak Marathon began in 1956 as a dare. Dr. Arne Suominen wanted to prove that smoking was detrimental to physical endurance, so he challenged smokers to race to the top of Pikes Peak. 14 people lined up to participate that year, of those, 3 were smokers, none of whom finished to round trip race. This is how the Pikes Peak Marathon was born!

- First Marathon in the U.S. to feature a woman in sports history: Arlene Pieper Stine. When she crossed the Pikes Peak Marathon finish line in 1959, she became the first female marathon finisher, eight years before acclaimed Kathrine Switzer crossed the finish line at the Boston Marathon.
- In 2020, Pikes Peak Marathon officially became known as the oldest continuously run Marathon in the country.
  - The Boston Marathon has the longest streak at 123 years
  - That streak was broken in 2020 due to Covid.
  - Albeit a younger race, PPM now has the distinction as the oldest continually held marathon at 66 consecutive years.
- Originally competitors under the age of 19 were not now allowed to run to the top of Pikes Peak
  - Anyone older than 19 was required to run the full Marathon
  - Age restrictions were lifted in 1970 with some competitors running the Ascent and others running the Marathon.
  - In 1981, due to the popular demand, the Pikes Peak Ascent was split into its own race on its own day.



Arlene Piper Stine atop Pikes Peak

### NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Legendary Colorado runner Matt Carpenter owns the mountain on the men's side. He is considered king of the mountain with his unbroken record. In 1993, Carpenter set the record for the Pikes Peak Marathon with a total time of 3:16:39. His ascent time in that same marathon was a record-setting 02:01:06. 25 years later, his records still stand. But that's not all; in 2001, he became the first person to win the Ascent and Marathon on back-to-back days, a feat he accomplished once again in 2007.

On the women's side, in 1976, 19-year-old Lynn Bjorklund from New Mexico was the first woman to complete the Pikes Peak Ascent in under 3 hours, clocking in at 02:44. In 1981, she set a course record for the Pikes Peak Marathon at 04:15:18. Her Marathon record held for more than 30 years until 2018 when it was broken by 14 seconds by Megan Kimmel of Ridgeway, CO. In 2019, Swiss runner Maude Mathys took over the course record with an impressive 04:02:45 finish!

Kim Dobson, of Eagle, CO, broke Bjorklund's Ascent record in 2012 with a time of 2:24:58. A record she still holds today.

# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES AND RUNNERS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### MEDIA PASS PICKUP:

Passes must be picked up at the Scheels Expo in Memorial Park (502 Manitou Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829) at volunteer check-in. A valid ID will be required. Pick-up Times:

Thursday: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Friday: 10:00 am - 6:30 pm

Saturday: 5:30 am - 5:00 pm\*

Sunday: 5:30 am - 7:00 am

\*If you have been approved to cover the summit, please pick up your pass before 7:00 am Saturday.

### MEDIA MEMBER ACCESS:

Your media pass is your access; please ensure you are wearing it and that it is always visible. Approved Media Members will have access to the start area, race course, finish area (Pikes Peak Marathon only unless approved for Pikes Peak Ascent summit access), and expo.

### PIKES PEAK ASCENT SUMMIT COVERAGE:

Only Media Members who received summit passes can travel to the summit to cover the Ascent finish line. All Media Members covering the summit will not be allowed to drive their personal vehicles and must receive a ride on a Pikes Peak Marathon shuttle. Several shuttles have been set aside and will leave for the summit at 8:00 am. Do not miss the shuttle; this is your only ride to the summit.

### SUMMIT WEATHER:

There is always a 30-40 degree Fahrenheit difference from the base of the mountain to the top. Therefore, media Members should come prepared with layers of clothing, closed-toe shoes with good soles, and plenty of water.

### PIKES PEAK MARATHON SUMMIT COVERAGE:

Media Members wishing to cover the turnaround at the top of the summit for the Pikes Peak Marathon must take their own vehicles and must purchase a 2-hour reservation and a one-day pass through the [Pikes Peak Highway reservation system](#).



# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

## RACE WEEK SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY

**Memorial Park**  
502 Manitou Avenue  
Manitou Springs

#### 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Scheels Expo

- Ascent & Marathon Bib pickup
- Ascent-specific parking pass pickup
- Merchandise sales
- Beer garden
- Celebration of running in the Pikes Peak region

#### 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

- Live Music with Last Patrol

### FRIDAY

**Memorial Park**  
502 Manitou Avenue  
Manitou Springs

#### 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM Scheels Expo

- Ascent & Marathon Bib pickup
- Ascent-specific parking pass pickup
- Merchandise sales

#### 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM

- Beer Garden opens

#### 3:45 PM

- Footprints Running Camp - Dakota Jones

#### 4:00 PM

- Press Conference
  - top 3 GTWS runners + local elite runners

#### 4:30 PM

- Golden Trail World Series Athlete Presentation
  - top 10 GTWS men/women

#### 5:00 PM

- Community Shakeout Run Meet Presented by Salomon & Mt. Chalet
- Pioneers of Running race advice

#### 5:30 PM

- Happy Hour drinks with Team Salomon

#### 6:00 PM

- 'Phil Up Your Heart' Fund Award

# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

## RACE WEEK SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

**Memorial Park**  
502 Manitou Avenue  
Manitou Springs

#### 5:30 AM - 7:00 AM

- Bib pickup - Ascent ONLY
  - Sweat Check

#### Fan Zone presented by Salomon

- Cheer on the Ascent runners from the roundabout at Manitou Ave and Ruxton Ave. Walk along Manitou Ave 0.4 miles to join this fan zone.

#### 7:00 AM

- Pikes Peak Ascent Wave 1 start
- 7:02 AM Wave 2 start
- 7:03 AM Wave 3 start

(each wave begins 60 seconds after the previous wave)

#### 7:15 AM - 8:00 AM

- Ascent-specific parking pass pickup

#### 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

- First finishers expected at Pikes Peak Summit

#### 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Scheels Expo

- Beer Garden open, post-race party, food, merchandise sales

#### 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- Bib Pickup for Marathon only

#### 1:30 PM

- Ascent Finish Line Closes

#### 5:00 PM

- Ascent Awards Ceremony

### SUNDAY

**Memorial Park**  
502 Manitou Avenue  
Manitou Springs

**Soda Springs Park**  
1016 Manitou Avenue  
Manitou Springs

#### 5:30 AM - 7:00 AM

- Bib pickup - Marathon ONLY
  - Sweat Check

#### 7:00 AM

- Pikes Peak Marathon Wave 1 start
- 7:02 AM Wave 2 start
- 7:03 AM Wave 3 start

(each wave begins 60 seconds after the previous wave)

#### 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

- Post-race party at Soda Springs Park
  - Merchandise Sales, finisher Items, Beer Garden open

#### 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

- First finishers expected

#### 1:30 PM

- Top 5 Overall and Master's Marathon Awards Ceremony

#### 4:00 PM

- Age Group Marathon Awards Ceremony

#### 5:30 PM

Marathon Finish Line Closes

# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

## RACE DAY CONTACTS

### RON ILGIN, PRESIDENT AND RACE DIRECTOR, PIKES PEAK ASCENT AND MARATHON



 [ron@pikespeakmarathon.org](mailto:ron@pikespeakmarathon.org)

A third-generation Colorado native, Ron was raised in Castle Rock. He started running to get into skiing shape and as an activity between ski seasons. Ron's PPM journey began when he first worked as an Ascent volunteer at the summit in 1994. During the following years, he became summit chief (1995-2001), helped with the first summit hose lay to the Cirque (1996), became a PPM board member (1998), and became PPM president and race director for all races in 2002.

As race director, Ron's accomplishments are many: created the race operations team with its dedicated lead, started the post-Ascent celebration party and the Pikes Peak Marathon Run Fest, added Bob's Road aid station, began the competitive athlete process adding prize money the following year, started the Ascent's Glen Cove van to bus transfer and recovery aid station, and the list goes on.

In 2009, Ron was also instrumental in locating Arlene Piper, the first woman to register a marathon finishing time. She was a race guest during the 50th celebration in 2009 and continued to make the trip to Manitou Springs for the Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon from Fresno, California, for ten years.



### JORDAN LINDER, PPA ASSISTANT RACE DIRECTOR

Born and raised in Colorado Springs, Jordan joined the Pikes Peak Marathon family as an intern in 2012. Since then, when time has allowed, she has continued to assist the organization with race day event help, awards ceremonies, and putting together the Pioneers of Running program for the Pikes Peak Ascent & Marathon Expo in 2021.

Among many of her many running accomplishments, Jordan has twice met the challenge of running the Pikes Peak Ascent. She celebrates every runner's accomplishment as they complete each of the Garden to Peak Challenge races.

 [jordan@pikespeakmarathon.org](mailto:jordan@pikespeakmarathon.org)



### RYAN LINDER, PPM ASSISTANT RACE DIRECTOR

Ryan became involved with the race organization after running the Pikes Peak Marathon. He is an avid fan of the sport of running and follows all the major ultra-running trail races. With Ryan's knowledge of ultra-trail races, we can ensure that the Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon are premier races worthy of being a part of the Golden Trail World Series. Ryan will be taking the lead this year organizing the deep field of elite athletes running the 66th Ascent and 67th Marathon races.

 [ryan@pikespeakmarathon.org](mailto:ryan@pikespeakmarathon.org)

# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

## RACE DAY CONTACTS



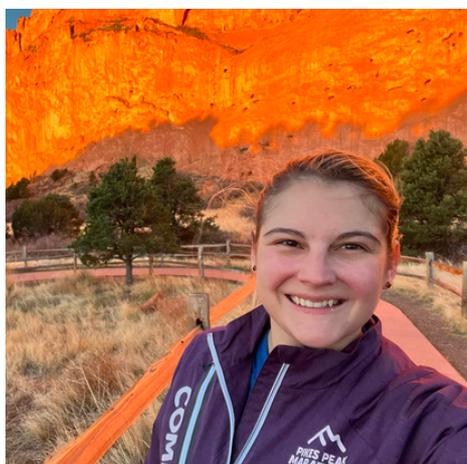
### **KATHY HUBEL, OFFICE MANAGER**

As a Colorado Springs native, Kathy grew up on the city's westside, regularly exploring the parks and trails of the Pikes Peak region. Always having a passion for the outdoors, Kathy grew up skiing, hiking, biking, and enjoying all that Colorado has to offer. Throughout college, she began coaching gymnastics, and after graduating with a Master's degree in Sports Administration, she continued her career as a coach, program director, and event coordinator. After 30 years, she retired from the sport and joined the Pikes Peak Marathon team in 2020.

It was 2013 when Kathy took up running and ran her first 'flat' half marathon. Accepting a challenge from a friend, Kathy ran her first Pikes Peak Ascent in 2014. Once she took to the trails, she never looked back. She has now finished three Ascents and one Marathon and can often be found running one of the many area trails with the Incline Club or Attack Pack running club.

Kathy brings years of experience in event planning, management, and organization to the Pikes Peak Marathon team. Along with her love of trail running and the Pikes Peak region, it's a perfect match!

✉ [info@pikespeakmarathon.org](mailto:info@pikespeakmarathon.org)



### **ABRAGAIL KAPPEL, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

Abigail, or Abby, became involved with the Pikes Peak Marathon team in 2019. While not much of a runner, Abby has extensive knowledge from working a myriad of live sporting events, and for the past several years she's been the driving force behind sponsorships and strategic community partnerships for PPM.

Abby has deep respect and awe for the running community and the outdoors. Born and raised in Sedona, Arizona, she knows and appreciates perfectly well the relationship between humans and nature. She is proud to be a part of an organization that allows people to experience the outdoors responsibly and sustainably.

✉ [abragail@pikespeakmarathon.org](mailto:abragail@pikespeakmarathon.org)

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Bob Purvine, Operations Lead

Keri Hardin, Project Manager

Bob Bodor, Summit Lead

Bernie & Madeline Redlinger, Volunteer Coordinators

Michael Phan, Race Director, Garden of the Gods 10 Mile & 10K

Beth Haney, Race Director, Barr Trail Mountain Race

John Garner, Timing Operations



# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

OUR OTHER RACES

## GARDEN OF THE GODS 10 MILE RUN

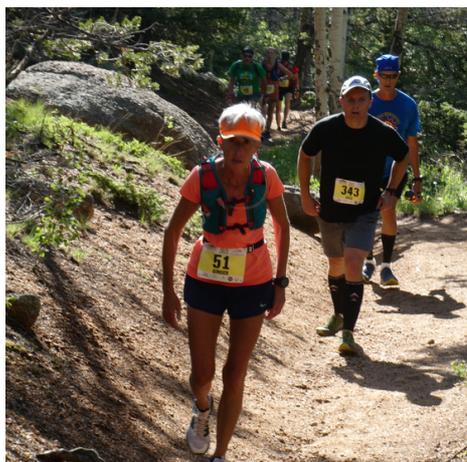


Roughly 1800 runners test their mettle each year in this race.

The Garden of the Gods Ten Mile Run® is the premier race of Colorado Springs, coursing through the 300' towering sandstone rock formations of Garden of the Gods Park. For 45 years, the Garden of the Gods has been a spectacular setting for this physically demanding race. Competition in every age group, excellent runner support and post-race festivities, prestigious awards, and uniquely designed shirts make this race the most popular race in Colorado Springs.

The awe-inspiring beauty of the course attracts runners from more than 38 states across the US, and around the world to test their strength on the rolling hills of this National Natural Landmark.

## BARR TRAIL MOUNTAIN RACE



The Barr Trail Mountain Race is one of the Front Range's historic summer mountain running events. The 12.6-mile course begins at the Cog Railway Station (6,570 ft) in Manitou Springs, ascends Pikes Peak's iconic Barr Trail to Barr Camp (10,200 ft) before turning, descending, and finishing at the Barr Trailhead.

The race was founded by legendary Matt Carpenter, along with Nancy Hobbs, founder and director of the American Trail Running Association (ATRA).

100% of race proceeds are donated to local-area non-profits and high schools.

## GARDEN TO PEAK CHALLENGE



Three courses - one challenge!

The Garden to Peak Challenge is a race series where participants complete the Garden of the Gods 10-Mile Run, the Barr Trail Mountain Race, and either the Pikes Peak Ascent or the Pikes Peak Marathon.

Runners that complete the three races under the mandatory cut-off times are recognized as Garden to Peak Challenge participants and are eligible for awards, recognition, and invitations to exclusive events.

# PIKES PEAK MARATHON

OUR PARTNERS

