



CONNECTICUT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL RUN

A message from Sgt. Brian Barao, Race Director of the Connecticut Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Run:

First, the Good... Over the past 14 years, the Connecticut Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Run has evolved from its humble beginnings to an event we have been very proud to work on. Through the efforts of our race directors, volunteers, sponsors, donors and most importantly our participants, we have been able to successfully raise over \$100,000 for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and more recently the Concerns Of Police Survivors. We have also been able to honor those law enforcement officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty as well as those who continue to tirelessly serve our communities even in the face of adversity.

Now the tough part... This year we have observed a significant drop in registrations and have had continued difficulty in acquiring sponsorship funds. Additionally, with a very small staff, the mounting demands of pulling together the event, alongside our fulltime jobs, have become increasingly difficult. While this event has been incredibly important to us, it is with an extremely heavy heart that we find ourselves in a position where we must evaluate the future of the race. With these current obstacles the event would no longer be able to benefit the organizations we partner with and would not be the event experience we want to deliver to our dedicated runners.

What We're Doing About It... While initially, the decision was to cancel the 2024 Connecticut Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Run, we still want to offer our participants the opportunity to come together for these important causes. Even though you may think running in a 3.1 mile loop would be cheap, our race does have a number of costs. Without sponsorship funds, your registration would merely go towards putting on the run with little to nothing to donate to the cause. We don't want that, and we know you don't either. **The race will still take place on September 29th, at 10 AM however, to keep the funds going where they are supposed the following changes are being made to the 2024 event:**

- **BYOS (Bring Your Own Shirt).** Race shirts will not be provided. If you are one of our most dedicated runners you probably have about a dozen of our shirts and we want to see them! Break out your favorite one or your faded original from 2010 and show off your support.
- **BYOB (Buy Your Own Beer).** There's no such thing as "free" beer (especially if you're buying a couple hundred pints)! We can still hang out and party but raising a glass doesn't do as much as those funds going to help the families of the fallen. Purchase your own at Stubborn Beauty after the event.

- **BYOA (Be Your Own Accomplishment)**. Awards are great but... how many little trophies do you need? We'll make sure to give the first place overall (male and female), first place law enforcement officer, and first place team a trophy but each division other than those, you will have to settle for a big round of applause and our desire to be as fast as you.

Everything else we will cover. You'll still get a bib, the course is still certified, you'll still get water, and if you need to pee, we'll have a place for you to do that too.

For those ALREADY registered for the 2024 run prior to this notification, you are affected just the same. You may come run and support the fallen or you may email us requesting a refund.

This event has brought together the Connecticut law enforcement family each year to showcase and support the best of our profession. We truly thank each of you who have help shape the run over the years whether you helped with a sponsorship or donation, offered your assistance with race-day registration, or ran in the rain with us and partied at the brewery after. This race continues to be successful in its mission because of all of you and we are so grateful for your support and for almost a decade and a half of great memories. Please stay safe, keep running, and always remember those who we have honored each year.

Please spread the word about the event so we can all support our fellow officers. See you all in Middletown on Sunday, September 29th at 10:00 AM.