

Marine Corps Historic Half Course Description

The Marine Corps Historic Half course features 13.1 miles of scenic and historic landmarks in and around Fredericksburg, Virginia. Runners begin their journey at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center on Carl D. Silver Parkway and head south through the shops and restaurants of Central Park. With a left turn onto Cowan Boulevard, the course proceeds towards the University of Mary Washington, passing the 88-foot tall Clock Tower, dedicated in honor of the University's Centennial Celebration.

Next, the course turns left onto historic Sunken Road, famous as a confederate stronghold during the Civil War, protecting Robert E. Lee's center of operations from penetration by the North at the Battle of Fredericksburg. At the end of Sunken Road, the course bears right onto Fitzhugh Street. Along the way, runners enjoy the view of Kenmore Plantation, the Georgian-style mansion that was home to merchant Fielding Lewis and his wife, Betty Washington Lewis, George Washington's sister.

Just across the street from Kenmore, runners will notice the General Hugh Mercer Memorial Statue, featuring Mercer on his horse and constructed in honor of his heroic, and fatal, actions at the Battle of Princeton during the American Revolution. This statue is also featured on this year's participate shirt. Ahead, catch a glimpse of the Mary Washington Grave and Monument, dedicated to the famed Fredericksburg resident, and mother of George Washington, by President Grover Cleveland in 1894.

The course then proceeds with a right turn on Pelham Street and another right onto Fall Hill Ave as it become Canal Street. Here, runners are sure to enjoy the peach blossoms, roses and hundreds of other plants and vegetation along the old Rappahannock Canal.

As runners proceed right onto Prince Edward Street, they will see downtown Fredericksburg, beginning with the downtown Visitor's Center. A left turn on Caroline Street takes the course through scenic old town Fredericksburg.

Continuing onto Amelia Street, followed by a left on Sophia Street, the course reaches Caroline Street and turns right on Riverside Drive. Eventually reaching Mary Washington Boulevard, runners receive an up close view of Mary Washington Hospital as they loop Hospital Drive.

The final stretch of the course turns right onto Cowan Boulevard and right onto Carl D. Silver Parkway, leading runners to cross the finish line at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center.