

Cystic Fibrosis why we're running



London Marathon Application Frequently Asked Questions

■ What is a ballot place?

The London Marathon runs an online public ballot, which is open to the general public for one week after the previous year's event. Successful places in the ballot are announced in early October. If you receive a place in the ballot, the entry fee is £39 and there is no minimum sponsorship target – you can just fundraise as much as you can! [Find out more](http://www.tcslondonmarathon.com/enter/how-to-enter/ballot-entry) information about the London Marathon Official Ballot: www.tcslondonmarathon.com/enter/how-to-enter/ballot-entry

■ What is a charity place?

We are allocated a limited number of charity places for the London Marathon. These places cost us money, which is why each place has a minimum sponsorship requirement of £2,500.

■ When is the deadline for applications and what happens if I miss it?

We have a strict deadline for charity place applications and are unable to accept applications after the closing date. The application deadline is on the London Marathon event page.

■ How long will it take to submit an application?

The application form asks a series of questions to gain as much knowledge about you, your connection with the Trust and how you plan to fundraise to minimum sponsorship pledge. We would encourage you to add as much detail as possible on the application form, the more time spent and detail you add to the form, the more information we will have to inform our decision.

■ How much will it cost if I am successful?

If you are successful in getting a charity place, there is a registration fee of £60 to confirm your place.

■ When will I find out if I have a charity place for the London Marathon?

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust's London Marathon selection committee meet in February, when it has been confirmed how many places we have to allocate. Successful applicants will receive a phone call and email letting them know the next steps to confirm their place at the end of February. Unsuccessful applicants will be emailed at this time as well.

■ How many people who apply will get a place?

It's difficult to give an exact number, as the amount of places we have changes each year as well as the number of people who apply for a place. The approximate percentage of people who apply that we're able to give places to is between 15–20%.

■ How does the Trust decide who gets the places?

The decision is made purely based on information from your application form. Factors considered are your connection to CF, previous events and fundraising you've done for the Trust and a detailed description of how you will meet the £2,500 minimum sponsorship target. The more information you include the better, because we can only go off what you have told us.

■ **Is there a waiting list?**

Once unsuccessful applicants have been notified, they can ask to be added to the waiting list. If anyone who has been allocated a place can no longer take part, due to injury or other personal circumstances, people on the waiting list are contacted and offered any available places based on the strength of their application form.

■ **If I have a link to cystic fibrosis, will I get a place?**

The Trust cannot guarantee a place if you have a connection to someone with cystic fibrosis, most people who apply have a link and unfortunately, we only have a limited number of places.

■ **If I had a charity place for the London Marathon before, will I get a place?**

Our charity places in the London Marathon are limited and we want to make sure all our supporters have the opportunity to be a part in the biggest fundraising event of the year. Unfortunately, this means we cannot guarantee places to people who have previously had a place with us. If you have taken part in previous years you can try entering the official London Marathon ballot, or see if you are eligible for a Good for Age place or a place from your local running club, to help increase your chances of getting a place.

■ **Can my friend/family and I get charity places together?**

We understand it is great fun to train and fundraise as part of a team, however we cannot guarantee you will all get a place due to our charity places being so limited. Please provide as much detail as possible on your application form about anyone else who has applied and what your collective fundraising plans would be. We will review team applications on a case by case basis.

■ **If I change my mind or if I am injured, can I give my place to a family member or friend?**

If you are unable to take part, we can't transfer your place to a family member or friend. Instead, your place will be allocated to someone on the waiting list. If any friends or family members want to participate in the London Marathon, please encourage them to enter the official ballot and apply for a charity place themselves.

■ **What if I can't raise £2,500?**

All Team CF London Marathon runners are given lots of support to help reach the minimum sponsorship target, including a runner's pack with fundraising inspiration and ideas, support from our local Community Fundraising teams and access to fundraising materials, such as collection tins, posters, banners and T-Shirts. You will also be part of an exclusive community group of runners on Facebook, where you can share tips, hints and fundraising advice.

You have up to three months after the event date to raise the total sponsorship pledge. If you don't raise the total amount, this may restrict you from being given a charity place for any event in the future. Each charity place costs the Trust money, so we ask that you have a realistic plan of how you will reach the £2,500 target before you accept the place.

■ **What is match funding?**

Match funding is when your employer agrees to match, or partially match, your fundraising. For example, if you raise £1,000 your employer would match your fundraising with a donation of another £1,000. Banks and building societies, insurance companies, supermarkets, utilities providers, phone companies and car manufacturers are also known to offer match-funding schemes. We recommend checking with your manager or HR team to find out if your organisation does match funding.

