



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile and 5K Run-Walk Rescheduled for September 12, 2021

***Runner's Rite of Spring® moves to Fall with plans to bring in-person running back to National Mall; Virtual Runs will be held during National Cherry Blossom Festival in April***

**December 17, 2020, Washington, DC:** Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run organizers announced today that their 2021 in-person events have been moved from the previously scheduled dates of April 9-11, to September 10-12, 2021. The Health & Fitness Expo will take place at the National Building Museum on September 10 and 11; the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Kids' Run will be held on September 11, on a course adjacent to the National Building Museum; and the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile and 5K Run-Walk will take place on September 12 at their traditional start/finish areas on the Washington Monument Grounds.

The annual lottery for race entries will be held from June 1-13, 2021, with entry fees of \$50 for the Ten Mile and \$40 for the 5K Run-Walk. Runners with a guaranteed entry from the canceled 2020 events will be offered a choice of race dates: September 12, 2021, or April 3, 2022, which will celebrate the 49<sup>th</sup> running of the Runner's Rite of Spring® in our nation's capital. Registration details for the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Kids' Run will be released at a later date.

Event Director Phil Stewart said: "We plan to continue our tradition of the *Runner's Rite of Spring* with a one-time, special edition of the *Runner's Delight of Fall*, by which time runners should be more than ready to return to in-person running events after over a year of mostly virtual runs. We are planning on making this a triumphant return."

All is not lost in the spring, however, as race organizers also announced the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile and 5K Virtual Runs that will coincide with the [National Cherry Blossom Festival](#), March 20 through April 11, 2021. Registration for the virtual runs will

open on January 18, 2021, and the \$35 entry fee includes a t-shirt and finisher's medal. Runners are encouraged to visit the [Credit Union Cherry Blossom website](#) for more information on the virtual runs.

Held virtually this year, the 2020 Credit Union Cherry Blossom Runs marked the 19<sup>th</sup> year of title sponsorship by Credit Union Miracle Day. Since 2002, over \$10 million has been raised for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, including \$439,000 this year. Of that \$439,000, \$66,000 came from runners donating their entry fees instead of asking for a refund when race weekend in our Nation's Capital was wiped out by COVID-19.

"While we were all disappointed that the race was canceled this year, together we are making a significant impact in our communities and in the lives of children treated at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals," said John Bratsakis, chair of Credit Union Miracle Day. "The funds raised directly benefit CMN Hospitals in local communities, helping to fund research, treatment, medical equipment and the challenges brought on by COVID-19. The unique, collaborative spirit of the credit union movement makes a real difference in communities, particularly during this time of uncertainty and disruption. We look forward to 2021 and our 20<sup>th</sup> year as title sponsor of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile and 5K Run-Walk."

### ***About the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile:***

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile, organized by Cherry Blossom, Inc., a 501c(3) chapter of the Road Runners Club of America, is known as "The Runner's Rite of Spring®" in the Nation's Capital. The staging area for the event is on the Washington Monument Grounds and the course passes in sight of all of the major Washington, DC Memorials. The event serves as a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, a consortium of 170 premier children's hospitals across North America. About one-third of the funds raised support Washington, DC's own Children's National ("Children's Hospital"). The event also funds the Road Runners Club of America's "Roads Scholar" program designed to support up-and-coming U.S. distance running talent.

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run is also part of the [National Cherry Blossom Festival](#), "America's Greatest Springtime Celebration."

Credit Union Miracle Day, Inc., a consortium of credit unions and credit union suppliers in partnership with CUNA Mutual Group, PCSU and CO-OP Financial Services, is the title sponsor of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run, 5K Run-Walk and Kids' Run.

The event is a proud member of the PRRO Circuit ([PRRO.org](#)), a series of major non-marathon prize money road races in Tampa, FL; Washington, DC; Spokane, WA; and Utica, NY. The circuit is committed to a drug-free sport and funds drug testing at all circuit events in compliance with the standards of international and U.S. drug testing authorities.

In addition to being sanctioned by USA Track & Field and the Road Runners Club of America, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run has earned Gold Level Inspire Certification from the Council for Responsible Sport in recognition of its legacy of commitment to sustainability and thoughtful resource management. To learn more, visit [www.cherryblossom.org](#) and follow the event on social media @CUCB and #CUCB2020.

### ***About Credit Union Miracle Day:***

Credit Union Miracle Day is a partnership of over 100 credit unions, CUSOs and partner organizations united to sponsor the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run promoting awareness of the credit union difference and benefitting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals nationwide.

### ***About America's Credit Unions:***

Credit unions provide consumers choices for financial services such as checking accounts, investments and loans of all kinds including mortgages. Funds are federally insured, but unlike banks, there are no stockholders at credit unions. Earnings are returned to member-owners in the form of lower loan rates, higher savings rates, low or no-fee products and services. The credit union philosophy of placing members' needs first is why more than 122 million Americans do their banking at one of America's 5,200 credit unions. Credit unions are for everyone – no matter where you live, there is a credit union to meet your needs.

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Credit Union Cherry Blossom, Inc. | [www.cherryblossom.org](http://www.cherryblossom.org)