

Welcome to the 22nd annual Wayne County Challenge End of Season Celebration, I am Brian Schleeper, Race Director of the IU East Run with the Wolves 5K. Today we are here to honor the overall and age group winners from the 2025 season and to recognize everyone who completed all eight races of the series. We are also going to talk about a few changes to the upcoming season. The schedule for 2026 is set and the season schedule is posted on the WCC website.

Now I would like to recognize the remaining race directors from the 2025 season for all their hard work:

***Melissa Soper*** - Girls Inc. 5K: benefitting Girls Incorporated

***Rick Duncan*** – Fireworks 5K: benefiting the Richmond American Legion Post 65

***Paula Wilson & Amanda Nocton*** – Heartbreak Hill 5K: benefiting Hagerstown High School Athletics

***Dakota Collins***–Hometown Hustle 5K: benefiting Main Street Richmond.

***Claudia Edwards***– Fall Foliage 5K/10K: benefiting Cope Environmental Center. Cope has been a part of the WCC since 2009 and has decided to no longer be a part of the series going forward. We greatly appreciate their participation over the years and have enjoyed having them as one of our nonprofit partners.

***Mike Day*** - Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K: benefiting the Centerville High School Athletic Dept.

***Kristi Cruse***-Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K: benefiting the Richmond Parks Dept.

Additionally, I want to recognize the other members of the Wayne County Challenge committee, which includes a few changes.

Keith Morey is an at large member of the group and part of the timing team. Ashley Stephen was the WCC Chair in 2025, his second time serving in this role, but he will be stepping down from this duty but continuing as our lead Timer. We appreciate Ashley's leadership and look forward to having him remain as part of the committee. The 2026 Chair role will be shared by Paula Wilson, who also previously served in this capacity and Amber Hall, who is a new member to the group.

The October race will be taken over in 2026 by the Golay Center which will host the Monster Mash 5K October 10. This race has taken place for a number of years and some of you may have participated in it. We look forward to welcoming them to the WCC this year.

One more change for 2026 is that we will be increasing the registration fees for our events. Since 2013 the pre-registration cost has been \$20 and day of registration \$25. So it's been a while since we've raised the entry fee. This season those will be going up \$5 each to \$25 and \$30. WCC races serve as fundraising events for each of our member nonprofit organizations and provide critical funding that allows them to carry out their missions and serve our community.

We will once again be offering the Carpe Viam special, which allows you to enter all eight series races at once, at a discounted rate. This year the program is available for \$150, a savings of \$50 over the course of the year on pre-registration rates, getting two races free, and \$90 off day of registration prices. We also have a Youth Carpe Viam package for \$100 for anyone fifteen or under.

Signing up for the Carpe Viam program ensures that you get a shirt or other swag from each race. Online and paper registration forms for both Carpe Viam specials are available on the WCC website, [wcchallenge.org](http://wcchallenge.org). Registration for the season opening Girls Inc. 5K is also available on our website.

And one final thing before we get to the awards, we would like to thank our sponsors. Hills Pet Nutrition will once again be our series sponsor. We greatly appreciate their continued support and enjoy having their presence at each event. We also want to thank Thrive Wellness, who will return as our wellness sponsor. We appreciate both these great partners.

Now let us move on to the awards. The mission of the Wayne County Challenge is to promote community health through amateur distance running. Our scoring system is designed to encourage and reward the participation of all types and ages of runners and recognizes both participation and competitive achievement. The thirty-five overall and age group winners and forty-nine recipients of the “Elite 8” award for completion of each event are examples of this mission.

Winners, please come up when your name is called, we will start with the overall awards first.

**The third place overall female is Meg Smith.** This is Meg’s second WCC award after winning her age division in 2023. In 2025 she ran all eight races and finished first in her age group in all eight. She finished in a tie for this spot but won the tiebreaker with the fastest overall race time. Congratulations to two time winner and third place overall female Meg Smith.

**The second place overall female is Brittni Gettinger.**

This is Brittni's twelfth overall award competing in the WCC and 2025 was the twelfth straight season she participated in all eight events. She had three second place age group finishes, won her division at the Girls Inc. 5K and Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K and finished third overall at the Fall Foliage 5K and Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K. She volunteered at the remaining event. Over the course of her WCC career Brittni has five age group titles, three third place overall and three second place overall crowns and was the 2021 overall female champion. Congratulations to repeat winner and second place overall female Brittni Gettinger.

**The overall female champion is Amanda Nocton.**

This is the third straight season Amanda has taken this honor and third straight year she has run all eight races. In 2025 she finished in the top three overall at every event. This includes third at the Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, a race she also co-directs, and overall wins at the season opening Girls Inc. 5K, Fireworks 5K, Fall Foliage 5K and season ending Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K. In the last three seasons Amanda has finished in the top three overall at 21 of the twenty-four races.

Congratulations to three time defending overall female champion Amanda Nocton.

**The third place overall male finisher is Travis Morris.** This is Travis's first WCC award and it capped a very impressive season. He ran all eight races and finished first in his age group at each one. Congratulations to first time winner and third place overall male Travis Morris.

**The second place overall male finisher is Scott Meinardi.** This is Scott's tenth WCC award and second time he's won this particular honor. In 2025 he completed all eight races, had two age group wins and was third overall at the Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, Fall Foliage 5K and Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K and was second overall at the Hometown Hustle 5K. Scott was also the 2022 and 2024 Overall Male champion. Congratulations to ten time winner and second place overall male Scott Meinardi.

**The 2025 overall male winner is Matthew Beatty.**

This is Matthew's second time taking this honor after also being the Male Overall Champion in 2023, in addition to winning his age group in 2024. In 2025 Matthew ran all eight races and had age group wins at the Fireworks 5K and Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K. He finished in the top three overall at five of the remaining six events, including wins at the Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, Fall Foliage 5K and Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K. Congratulations to three time winner and two time overall male champion Matthew Beatty.

Now we will move on to the age group winners. There are several categories where there was no winner because no one completed at least five races, a requirement to win an age group award.

**The winner of the female nine and under age group is Annalise Cole.** Annalise competed in every race and finished in the top four in her division in seven of the eight, including an age group win at the Hometown Hustle 5K. This was also the closest women's age division as Annalise won by only

thirty-one points. Congratulations to first time age group winner Annalise Cole.

**The winner of the male nine and under age group is Lucas Turner.** This is Lucas's second straight year taking this title as he once again ran all eight races. He finished in the top three of the division at every race and had wins at the Girls Inc. 5K, IU East Run With the Wolves 5K and Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K. Congratulations to two time winner and defending age group champion Lucas Turner.

**There was no winner of the female 10-12 age group.**

**The winner of the male 10-12 age group is Zeke Klein.** Zeke was the third place overall male in 2024, at the age of eleven. He continued his success in 2025 by running seven races, finishing first in his age group five times and third place overall male at the Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K. Congratulations to two time winner and first time age group champion Zeke Klein.

**The winner of the female 13-15 age group is Ryleigh Roberts.** Ryleigh repeats as winner of this division as she ran all eight races finishing no worse than fourth in her division, including an age group title at the Fall Foliage 5K. Congratulations to two time winner and repeat age group champion Ryleigh Roberts.

**The winner of the male 13-15 age group is Daniel Terhaar.** Daniel ran all eight races and had five top four finishes in the division, including a win at the Fall Foliage 5K. Daniel was also the 2024 Most Improved Runner. Congratulations to two time winner and first time age group champion Daniel Terhaar.

**The winner of the female 16-18 age group is Olivia Myers.** Olivia ran seven races in 2025, finishing in the top three in the age group five times, including second place finishes to close out the season at the Fall Foliage 5K, Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K and Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K. Congratulations to first time winner Olivia Myers

**There is no winner of the male 16-18 age.**

**The winner of the female 19-24 age group is Bailey Wright.** Bailey ran all eight races and finished in the top three of the group five times, taking the top spot at the Hometown Hustle 5K. Congratulations to first time winner Bailey Wright.

**There is no winner of the male 19-24 age group.**

**The winner of the female 25-29 age group is Anna Shafer.** Anna ran all eight races finishing no worse than fourth in her age group. She had age group titles at the Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, Hometown Hustle 5K, Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K and season ending Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K and was second overall female at the Fall Foliage 5K. She finished as the fifth overall female and was only five points from third place. Congratulations to first time age group winner Anna Shafer.

**The winner of the male 25-29 age group is Brent Myers.** Brent missed the season opening Girls Inc. 5K but ran the seven remaining events. He finished in the top three of the division at each one, including category wins at the Fireworks 5K, Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, Hometown Hustle 5K, Fall

Foliage 5K and Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K.  
Congratulations to first time winner Brent Myers.

**The winner of the female 30-34 age group is Mariah Wright.** This is Mariah's eighth age group title spanning three different groups. In 2025 she ran all eight races finishing third in the division five times and second at the season opening Girls Inc. 5K. Congratulations to eight time age group champion Mariah Wright.

**The winner of the male 30-34 age group is James Bottoms.** This is James's second straight age group title after winning the 25-29 division in 2024. In 2025 he ran all eight races and finished in the top four of the division at each. This included age groups wins at the Girls Inc. 5K and Fireworks 5K. Congratulations to the two-time winner and repeat age group champion James Bottoms.

**The winner of the female 35-39 age group is Miranda Moore.** This is Miranda's second straight season taking this title. In 2025 she ran all eight races with three second place finishes in the division and titles at the Fireworks 5K, Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, Fall Foliage 5K, Pat Bowers

Turkey Chase 7K and Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K. Congratulations to two time defending age group champion Miranda Moore.

**The winner of the male 35-39 age group is Dylan Halcomb.** This is Dylan's third WCC award after being named the Most Improved runner in 2022 and winning the 30-34 age group in 2024. In 2025 he ran all eight races finishing in the top four of the division at every one, including wins at the Girls Inc. 5K, Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, Hometown Hustle 5K and Fall Foliage 5K. Congratulations to three winner and two time age group champion Dylan Halcomb.

**The winner of the female 40-44 age group is Justine Coblentz-Boggs.** Justine ran all eight races in 2025 and finished in the top five in her division at every one, including season best second place finishes at the Hometown Hustle 5K and Fall Foliage 5K. Congratulations to first time winner Justine Coblentz-Boggs.

**The winner of the 40-44 male age group is Douglas Smith.** Douglas ran all eight races and finished in the top four of the division at half of them, highlighted by a second place finish at the Fall Foliage 5K. This was also the closest male category at 51 points. Congratulations to first time age group winner, Douglas Smith.

**The winner of the female 45-49 age group Angel Shiverdecker.** This is Angel's second title in this division after winning it in 2023. In 2025 she ran all eight races finishing third in the division at the season opening Girls Inc. 5K and IU East Run With the Wolves 5K and winning the group at the other six events. Congratulations to two time age group champion Angel Shiverdecker.

**The winner of the male 45-49 age group is Dave Snow.** 2025 saw Dave participate in all eight events for the fifteenth straight season and take his eleventh age group title, over three divisions. He finished second in the group at the seven events he competed in and volunteered at the eighth. Congratulations to eleven time age group champion Dave Snow.

**The winner of the female 50-54 age group is Amy Russell.** This is Amy's second straight age group title after winning the 45-49 group in 2024. She moved up a division in 2025 but once again took the top spot by running all eight races with a season best third place finish in the division at the Hometown Hustle 5K. Congratulations to two time age group champion Amy Russell.

**The winner of the male 50-54 age group is Chris Conner.** Chris ran all eight races finishing in the top five in the age group at each, including a second place finish at the Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K. Congratulations to first time age group winner Chris Conner.

**The winner of the female 55-59 age group is Renee Crist Lefter.** Renee won this division in 2024 and defended her title in 2025 by running all eight races and finishing in the top five of the group at every one, including an age group win at the Fall Foliage 5K. Congratulations to two time winner and defending age group champion Renee Crist Lefter.

**The winner of the male 55-59 age group is Brian Fisher.** This is Brian's second straight season winning this age group after winning it in 2024, along with taking the 50-54 group in 2022. In 2025 he ran all eight races and finished in the top five of the division at each. He took age group wins at the Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, Hometown Hustle 5K and Fall Foliage 5K. Congratulations to three time age group winner and defending champion Brian Fisher.

**The winner of the female 60-64 age group is Judy Pierce.** Judy defended the title she won in 2024, which makes this her fourth age group win, in addition to a third place overall female honor. In 2025 she ran all eight races, finished third in her age group once, second four times and took age group wins at the Hagerstown Heartbreak Hill 5K, Hometown Hustle 5K and Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K. She was also the 2023 Gene Black Spirit of the WCC award winner. As impressive as Judy's WCC resume is, her largest accomplishment is the fact that she has completed every event for nineteen straight seasons, a total of 151 races. This is the longest streak in WCC history.

Congratulations to four time age group champion and six time winner Judy Pierce.

**The winner of the male 60-64 age group is John Wright.** John ran all eight races finishing in the top six of the age group at each, highlighted by wins at the Hometown Hustle 5K and Fall Foliage 5K.

Congratulations to first time age group winner John Wright.

**The winner of the female 65-69 award is Kathy Girten.** Kathy ran seven races in 2025 finishing second in her age group at the Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K and taking the win at the remaining six. This is her second WCC award after finishing as the third place overall female in 2024. Congratulations to first time age group champion and two time winner Kathy Girten.

**The winner of the male 65-69 age group is Rick Moore.** This is Rick's sixth age group title as he ran all eight races in 2025, for the seventh time. He finished in the top three of his division at every race, including wins at the Fireworks 5K, IU East Run With the Wolves 5K and Hometown Hustle 5K.

Rick scored enough points to finish as the fifth place overall male. Congratulations to six time age group winner, Rick Moore.

**The winner of the female 70-74 age group is Annette Rodefeld.** This is Annette's third age group title as she ran all eight races in 2025, winning her division at each. She had enough points to tie for the third place overall female but lost out on a tiebreaker. Congratulations to three time age group champion Annette Rodefeld.

**The winner of the male 70-74 age group is Gary Rodefeld.** Gary started running WCC races in 2003, which was our very first season, when he also won his age group. In 2025 he ran all eight races, finishing second in the division at the Pat Bowers Turkey Chase 7K and taking the win at the other seven. He finished as the fourth place overall male. Gary now has three age group titles, in addition to finishing as the second place overall male in 2023 and the Gene Black Spirt of the WCC winner in 2022. Congratulations to three time age group champion and five time winner Gary Rodefeld.

**The winner of the female 75-79 age group is Geri Schick.** This is Geri's seventh straight age group title, spanning three different divisions. In 2025 she ran seven races and took the age group win at each. Congratulations to seven time, defending age group champion Geri Schick.

**The winner of the male 75-79 age group is Gary Girten.** This is Gary's fifth straight age group title over two different categories. In 2025 he ran seven races and won the division at each. Congratulations to five time defending age group champion Gary Girten.

**There were no winners in the female or male 80 and over group.**

Let us congratulate all our age group and overall winners one more time.

Our next award goes to the most improved runner. This honor goes to the individual who shows the highest degree of race improvement over the course of the season.

The 2025 Most Improved Runner will be receiving their second award of the afternoon after winning their age group earlier. They ran all eight events finishing no worse than fourth in their division. As impressive as their finishes were they are not nearly as impressive as the amount of time they shaved off their race performances. From the season's second race at the Fireworks 5K in June to September's Hometown Hustle they improved by 8:50. They went on to finish as the second overall female at the Fall Foliage 5K and narrowly missed out on being the third place overall female for the season by only five points. **Congratulations to the 2025 Most Improved runner Anna Shafer.**

Now we will give out our final honor of the day, the Gene Black Spirit of the Wayne County Challenge Award. This honor is intended to recognize someone who embodies the mission of the WCC and is named after a long time participant in our events who was an accomplished runner but also an ambassador for the series.

We have just recognized many runners for very impressive seasons and excellent race performances. But that is not the only thing the Wayne County Challenge is about, and it is not what this particular honor highlights. This year's winner has never won an overall award or age group title. But for the last twelve seasons they have only missed one race, which means they have completed nearly one hundred events. They have showed up in the rain, snow, heat, wind, and everything in between. They have participated in races that no longer exist. But they have showed up, race after race, year after year, pushing themselves and encouraging others. And this signifies what the WCC, and the person this award is named for, is all about. It is our honor to present the 2025 Gene Black Spirit of the Wayne County Challenge award to Alysha Ogelsby.

We will now present certificates and awards to everyone who participated in all eight races this season. We appreciate the dedication and support these individuals have shown to the WCC and the organizations that put on and benefit from each race.

Congratulations to each of you. Please come forward when your name is called to receive your awards and please remain so we can take a group photograph.

Thank you again for attending today's event and for your support of the Wayne County Challenge and our member organizations. We look forward to our 23rd year and the season opening Girls Inc. 5K, Saturday May 16. Remember registration for the Carpe Viam programs is now open on the WCC website, along with sign up for the Girls Inc. 5K.