



**JERSEY SHORE RUNNING CLUB**  
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[www.jsrc.org](http://www.jsrc.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **18TH ANNUAL NAVESINK CHALLENGE 15K and 5K RACES TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 25, 2018 *It's a Hill – Get Over It!***

SHREWSBURY, N.J. – November 1, 2018 – On Sunday, November 25, the 18th annual Navesink Challenge 15K and 5K races, hosted by the [Jersey Shore Running Club](http://www.jsrc.org) (JSRC), will take place at Bodman Park in Middletown, New Jersey. Proceeds from the event will benefit [Middletown Youth Athletic Association](#) (MYAA), [Monmouth Conservation Foundation](#) (MCF), local first responders, and other local non-profit organizations. Over the years, the race has attracted a steadily increasing number of runners, from 600 in the race's early years to nearly double that in 2017. In the last three years alone, the race has attracted runners from 24 states, Canada and England. Since 2010, the Navesink Challenge has raised more than \$120,000 for its beneficiaries.

The Navesink Challenge is celebrated for its location along one of the prettiest courses in Monmouth County, through the woods and back roads of Navesink. It includes two races: A challenging 15K run beginning at 10:00 a.m., and a 5K run/walk at 10:10 a.m. Both distances feature scenic country roads and several hilly sections through some of the beautiful properties in Huber Woods and along Cooper and Browns Dock Roads, areas which have been preserved by MCF for the public to enjoy.

Overall Awards will be presented to the fastest three (3) men and fastest three women in the 15K and the 5K. In addition, the top three male and female finishers in each 10-year age group will also receive awards. All finishers will be eligible for random prizes donated by local and national organizations, including the [Count Basie Center for the Arts](#) in Red Bank; [Bahrs Landing](#) in Highlands; [Brandl](#) restaurant in Belmar; [Drew's Bayshore Bistro](#) in Keyport; [Under My Skin Tattoo](#) in Atlantic Highlands; [Key West Half Marathon](#); Brooks running shoes; [Illiano's Cafe](#) in Eatontown; and [Classic Boat Rides](#) in Atlantic Highlands.

Post-race food and beverages will be provided to all participants, including hot coffee from the Coffee Corral in Red Bank, and the runners' favorite: homemade, hot chicken soup by Chef Robert "Gilbo" Gileski. [The Downtown](#), at 10 West Front Street in Red Bank, is hosting the popular post-race party immediately after the awards ceremony at Bodman Park. At the party, runners will be treated to beers from [Carton Brewing Company](#), special [Brinley Gold Shipwreck Rum](#) drinks, and entertainment by local favorites [The Danjos](#).

The race has steadily been gaining in popularity, so runners wishing to participate are encouraged to register early. The race has completely sold out weeks before race day for the last four years, with more than 1100 registered runners. Race organizers fully expect to have the same success this year. Registration is currently available online or by mail. Registration is \$38 [online](#) for either distance, and \$40 for anyone mailing a paper application, available on the website.

By popular demand, a limited number of Charity Entries are also available, and last year the race had a record number of charity runners. One hundred percent of Charity Entry fees go directly to MYAA or MCF. Runners also have the opportunity to donate to [Clean Ocean Action](#) during online registration, and the race will match the total of all donations up to \$2,000.

Participants who register before November 1 are guaranteed a technical race shirt. "As always, pre-registered runners are guaranteed a long-sleeved technical shirt, which holds more appeal for runners than the cotton shirts they receive at many races," said Race Director Leslie McKernan. "Every year, we offer the shirts in a new color, so runners who want one are advised to register right away."

The organizers of the race encourage all participants to pick up their shirts and race bibs at race sponsor and local running store [Road Runner Sports](#) on Saturday, November 24 (the day before race day) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Road Runner is located at 490 Broad Street, Shrewsbury, NJ. In addition to packet pickup for pre-registered runners, Road Runner will also be offering a discount of 25% for VIPS (includes the standard 10% VIP discount) or 10% discount for anyone who is not a VIP. Shirts and race bibs will also be available for pickup at Bodman Park on race day, starting at 8:30 a.m.

As in prior years, a Team Challenge is open to any gym or fitness center. Team Awards will be handed out for: Fastest Gym/Fitness Center 15k Team (top 3 fastest team runners), Fastest Gym/Fitness Center 5k Team (top 3 fastest team runners), and Largest Registered Gym/Fitness Center Team. Learn more about the Team Challenge and register for the Team Challenge [here](#).

Sponsors for 2018 include:

- Bib sponsor: [Carton Brewing](#), Atlantic Highlands
- Post Race Party Sponsor: [Brinley Gold Shipwreck Rum](#), Atlantic Highlands
- Premier sponsors: [AmeriHealth NJ](#); The Hill Family; and [Road Runner Sports](#), Shrewsbury
- Major sponsors: [Howley Financial Group](#), Rumson; and [Preferred Home Health Care & Nursing Services](#), Eatontown; [Provident](#) Bank
- Minor sponsors: Bar Anticipation, Lake Como; [Eastpointe Health & Fitness](#), Atlantic Highlands; [Mountain Hill School](#), Atlantic Highlands; and [Protein PowerBall](#), Red Bank
- Contributing Sponsors: [Ameriprise Financial](#), John Turi, Advisor, Holmdel; [Brooks](#); [Coffee Corral](#), Red Bank; Leslie's BFFs, and [Dr. T-Shirt](#), Manasquan.

Learn more about our sponsors [here](#).

The race is seeking additional sponsors, with both cash and in-kind donations gladly accepted. Sponsor benefits include logo on all T-shirts distributed to race participants, organization name highlighted on race registration materials and press releases and other media related to the event (provided that sponsorship commitment is received in time for printing deadlines), the opportunity to distribute your company's promotional materials and product samples at the race venue, and recognition at the Awards ceremony. There may also be potential tax benefits; please consult your tax advisor for details. Find out how to sponsor [here](#).

For more information, contact Race Director Leslie McKernan at [Navesink.Challenge@gmail.com](mailto:Navesink.Challenge@gmail.com), or visit the race website at [www.navesinkchallenge.com](http://www.navesinkchallenge.com) or the official [Facebook page](#).

## About JSRC

The [Jersey Shore Running Club](#) (JSRC), a 501(c)(3), is the largest running club in New Jersey, with more than 1,500 members. Dedicated both to running and the community, JSRC members enjoy both the camaraderie of running with friends and participation in a wide range of social, running and community minded activities, many of which support local neighborhood and charitable organizations.

Every year, through around 40 of its own sponsored events and others in which it is an active supporter, JSRC raises more than a half-million dollars for area charitable groups such as Special Olympics New Jersey, Fulfill (formerly called The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties), Boys and Girls Club, Monmouth County SPCA, Dream Center, and many other worthwhile causes, such as Monmouth County's local first aid and fire departments and community service organizations.

JSRC offers a variety of benefits, including group runs almost every day of the week, planned social events, discounts on race entry fees, a monthly newsletter, and an up-to-date website. For more information, visit [www.jsrc.org](http://www.jsrc.org).

### **About MYAA**

Middletown Youth Athletic Association (MYAA) is a non-profit ALL volunteer run organization and is the largest youth recreation organization in Middletown. MYAAs mission is to provide the youth of Middletown Township with athletic programs that are safe, educational, recreational and competitive. Currently, we offer the children of Middletown an organized Little League Baseball/Softball program and a youth Basketball league that have more than 1400 children participants. Middletown Little League provides a Baseball and Softball program for boys and girls ages 5 through 16. Our volunteer Board Members, Team Managers, and Coaches provide a safe and fun environment to teach good sportsmanship and respect for their fellow players and help the players learn the rules and strategies of the game. For more information, please visit [www.middletownlittleleague.org](http://www.middletownlittleleague.org)

### **About MCF**

Monmouth Conservation Foundation (MCF) is Monmouth's only county-wide land trust. Founded in 1977 by Michael Huber and Judith Stanley as a 501(c)(3), Monmouth Conservation Foundation has been preserving land and protecting the natural habitat of Monmouth County for over 38 years. As an organization, we are extremely proud of the more than 22,500 acres of open space and farmland we have helped to save.

For more information please visit [www.monmouthconservation.org](http://www.monmouthconservation.org) or call Monmouth Conservation Foundation at 732.671.7000. Please "like" us on [Facebook](#) and "follow" us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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