



TRAINING PROGRAM

For Beginning Runners

(those who have been running consistently for less than 6 months)

This proven training program has led thousands of beginners across the finish line, usually with smiles on their faces. Only 3 weekly training days are needed: 30 minutes on Tuesday and Thursday, and a longer session on the weekend. On half of the weekends, most will be running and walking for an hour or less. For more information, see my book GALLOWAY TRAINING PROGRAMS at www.JeffGalloway.com.

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TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The long run is the key to marathon training.

As you increase the distance of these, you push back your endurance barriers and prepare yourself to “go the distance” on raceday. You can’t go too slowly on the long runs: your goal is simply to finish each one with strength. Generally, you want to slow down at least 2 minutes per mile slower than you could currently run per mile in a marathon. See the “magic mile” section on the following page for more information.

No huffing and puffing! On long runs, you want to be able to carry on a conversation throughout the run—even at the end. A very slow pace, with liberal walk breaks, will allow almost everyone to feel strong on almost every long one. If you’re breathing hard at the end of a long one, you need to adjust to a slower pace with more walk breaks from the beginning of the next one.

Running form: Never sprint during a running segment—keep feet low to the ground, using a light touch of the feet, and a relatively short stride. Most runners find that an upright posture is best but use what feels natural for you. Let your foot move in its natural way. Most runners naturally land on the heel and gently roll off the midfoot.

Walking form: walk with a gentle stride, that is relatively short. Power walking and walking with a long stride increase injury risk.

Slow down in the heat! Surveys have shown that runners tend to slow down a minute per mile when the temperature increases from 60F or below to 70F, and an additional minute per mile at 80F. Please make these pace adjustments on the hot long run days, using more frequent walk breaks to avoid heat stress. Don’t wear a hat on hot days, try to run before the sun rises above the horizon and pour water over the top of your head.

Time limit for the race is 7:00. The per mile pace to reach this goal is 16 min/mi. The “magic mile” (as noted on the following page) will tell you what would be expected as a per mile pace on raceday. Don’t worry if your comfortable long run pace is slower than 16 min/mi. The results of the “magic mile” will tell you what is realistic on raceday. Please practice 15:00 to 15:30 per mile pace during the middle of a Tuesday or a Thursday run each week.

Run-walk-run ratio should correspond to the pace used. If you are just starting to run, try a strategy of (run 5 seconds/walk 55 seconds). If this is too easy, use (10sec run/50 sec walk) for all runs during the first 3 weeks. On long runs, you can continue to use either 5/55 or 10/50. Those who have done regular running in the past can shift to the “To Finish” program after 3 weeks.

Two “maintenance runs” are needed each week to sustain the conditioning needed—usually on Tuesday and Thursday. Please take a day off from running before each running day—especially the long run.

Race Day practice. On the Tuesday run each week, after the standard warmup, time yourself for 2 miles and try to pace at 15:00-15:30 per mile. As you use a variety of run-walk-run strategies, you will find the right ratio for you. A common strategy at this pace is (run 15 sec/walk 45 sec, but some use 20 sec run/40 sec walk, or 30/30). Don’t push yourself if the temperature is high.

It is fine to do cross training on Mon, Wed, and Fri. if you wish. There will be little benefit to your running in doing this, but you’ll increase your fat burning. On the cross training days, don’t do exercises like stair machines that concentrate effort in the calf muscle.

Standard warmup: walk for 3-5 minutes, then, run for a few seconds and walk for a minute for 5 minutes. Then, gradually increase the amount of running, reducing the amount of walking for 5 minutes—until you reach the ratio that feels comfortable for you.

On Tuesday, after the standard warmup, try increasing the running portions: run 10 seconds/walk 50 seconds for 5 or more intervals, then run 15 sec/walk 45 seconds for 5 repetitions. At this point, take a 2-3 minute walk break and try 20/40 for 5 minutes, walk 2 minutes and try 30/30 for 5 minutes.

TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW



It is OK to huff and puff a little as you increase the portion of running. But if the latter strategies are too tough, drop back to a comfortable ratio and complete the 30 minutes using whatever ratio you wish.

On Thursday, after the standard warmup, time yourself for 2 miles. Use a run-walk-run strategy that feels comfortable. Try to run at 15:00 to 15:30 per mile.

Standard cool down: walk for 10 minutes with a gentle and short stride.

Magic Mile: I suggest doing this after the standard warmup on the non long run weekends. By the end of the training program you want to run a time of 11:15 or faster to predict a finish time below 7:00 on raceday.

The “Magic Mile” time trial (MM) is a reality check on your goal pace on raceday, and has been the best predictor of finishing under the race time limit of 7:00.

- Use the standard warmup
- Run around a track if at all possible (or a very accurately measured one mile segment)
- Time yourself for 4 laps (1600 meters). Start the watch at the beginning, and keep it running until you cross the finish at 1.0 miles.
- **On the first MM, don't run all-out: run at a pace that is slightly faster than your current gentle pace.**

- Only one MM is done on each day it is assigned.
- On each successive MM (usually 2-3 weeks later), your mission is to beat the previous best time.
- Don't ever run so hard that you hurt your feet, knees, etc. Maintain a short stride, picking up the cadence or turnover to run faster.
- After the MM, jog slowly for the rest of the distance assigned on that day taking as many walk breaks as you wish.

After you have run 3 of these (not at one time--on different weekends) you'll see progress and will run them hard enough so that you are huffing and puffing during the second half. Try walking for about 10-30 seconds after each lap during the MM. Most beginning runners record a faster time when taking short breaks.

Predicted All-Out Effort Pace: Take your best current MM time and multiply by 1.4. This is the fastest pace you could currently expect to run under ideal conditions per mile in the marathon.

Long run pace: should be at least 2 minutes slower than the current predicted marathon pace.

Adjust for temperature: At 70F, slow the pace by an additional minute per mile. At 80F, slow down another minute per mile.

Note: This training advice is given as one runner to another. For medical questions, ask your doctor.

TRAINING PROGRAM SCHEDULE



GOAL DATE: JANUARY 7, 2018

Walt Disney World® Marathon Beginning Runners

Tuesday - 30 minutes

Thursday - 30 minutes

Saturday - Listed below

WEEK 1

TUESDAY June 27	THURSDAY June 29	SATURDAY July 1
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles

WEEK 2

TUESDAY July 4	THURSDAY July 6	SATURDAY July 8
30 minutes	30 minutes	4 miles

WEEK 3

TUESDAY July 11	THURSDAY July 13	SATURDAY July 15
30 minutes	30 minutes	2.5 miles

WEEK 4

TUESDAY July 18	THURSDAY July 20	SATURDAY July 22
30 minutes	30 minutes	5.5 miles

WEEK 5

TUESDAY July 25	THURSDAY July 27	SATURDAY July 29
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles

WEEK 6

TUESDAY August 1	THURSDAY August 3	SATURDAY August 5
30 minutes	30 minutes	7 miles



WEEK 7

TUESDAY August 8	THURSDAY August 10	SATURDAY August 12
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles

WEEK 9

TUESDAY August 22	THURSDAY August 24	SATURDAY August 26
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles

WEEK 11

TUESDAY September 5	THURSDAY September 7	SATURDAY September 9
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles

WEEK 13

TUESDAY September 17	THURSDAY September 21	SATURDAY September 23
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles

WEEK 8

TUESDAY August 15	THURSDAY August 17	SATURDAY August 19
30 minutes	30 minutes	9 miles

WEEK 10

TUESDAY August 29	THURSDAY August 31	SATURDAY September 2
30 minutes	30 minutes	11 miles

WEEK 12

TUESDAY September 12	THURSDAY September 14	SATURDAY September 16
30 minutes	30 minutes	13 miles

WEEK 14

TUESDAY September 26	THURSDAY September 28	SATURDAY September 30
30 minutes	30 minutes	15 miles



WEEK 15

TUESDAY
October 3

30 minutes

THURSDAY
October 5

30 minutes

SATURDAY
October 7

3 miles

WEEK 17

TUESDAY
October 17

30 minutes

THURSDAY
October 19

30 minutes

SATURDAY
October 21

5 miles

WEEK 19

TUESDAY
October 31

30 minutes

THURSDAY
November 2

30 minutes

SATURDAY
November 4

20 miles

WEEK 21

TUESDAY
November 14

30 minutes

THURSDAY
November 16

30 minutes

SATURDAY
November 18

6 miles
with Magic Mile

WEEK 16

TUESDAY
October 10

30 minutes

THURSDAY
October 12

30 minutes

SATURDAY
October 14

17 miles

WEEK 18

TUESDAY
October 24

30 minutes

THURSDAY
October 26

30 minutes

SATURDAY
October 28

6 miles
with Magic Mile

WEEK 20

TUESDAY
November 7

30 minutes

THURSDAY
November 9

30 minutes

SATURDAY
November 11

6 miles

WEEK 22

TUESDAY
November 21

30 minutes

THURSDAY
November 23

30 minutes

SATURDAY
November 25

23 miles



WEEK 23

TUESDAY November 28	THURSDAY November 30	SATURDAY December 2
30 minutes	30 minutes	6 miles

WEEK 25

TUESDAY December 12	THURSDAY December 14	SATURDAY December 16
30 minutes	30 minutes	26 miles

WEEK 27

TUESDAY December 26	THURSDAY December 28	SATURDAY December 30
30 minutes	30 minutes	6 miles

WEEK 29

TUESDAY January 9	THURSDAY January 11	SATURDAY January 13
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles

WEEK 24

TUESDAY December 5	THURSDAY December 7	SATURDAY December 9
30 minutes	30 minutes	6 miles with Magic Mile

WEEK 26

TUESDAY December 19	THURSDAY December 21	SATURDAY December 23
30 minutes	30 minutes	6 miles

WEEK 28

TUESDAY January 2	THURSDAY January 4	SUNDAY January 7
30 minutes	30 minutes	<i>Walt Disney World® Marathon</i>