

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

(UPDATED FOR 2024)

LEG 1

5.22 MILES

The Prologue is a relatively short 1.15 mile run that all the team members run. It is a rectangle that starts from the Memorial Museum on Smith Street, takes a left on St. Lawrence, takes another left on St. Joseph to go around the Gonzales courthouse, and then takes a final left on St. Louis to get back to the Museum. The prologue is interesting in the way that teams run it differently. Most teams run the Prologue all together and easily as a ceremonial run. However, some of the more competitive teams will send their first runner off from the cannon boom as if they were racing leg 1 from the getgo! This by itself makes a significant difference on the difficulty of leg 1 because it makes the leg either 4.26 miles or 5.41 miles, depending how it's done. After the Prologue section, Leg 1 runners continue East on St. Louis, and they will be running facing traffic. When they approach the stop sign for 90A, runners will cross over St. Louis so that they can take a right and run on the shoulder of 90A that is GOING WITH TRAFFIC. The reason runners should not cross over 90A and run on the shoulder facing traffic is because it is only about a quarter of a mile later that runners will be taking another right on County Road 342 (Also Kelley Loop - but the sign about 40 yards before the turn says "CO RD 342"). After just a short bit on 342, runners will have a descent to a small bridge. There is a small rise after that (though we've heard that we don't give this hill enough credit). Runners will pass some mobile homes, and continue straight past Co Rd 344 (which goes off to the left). Soon runners will see a large field on the right, brushy terrain on the left, and farm buildings and the exchange that is straight ahead.

LEG 2

5.34 MILES

At the exchange, leg 2 runners will take an immediate left onto 343. Less than a quarter mile from the exchange, they will reach and very cautiously cross Hwy 90A, making completely sure that there is no oncoming traffic from either direction. After crossing, they will take a right to run on the shoulder, facing traffic. Most of Leg 2 is straight and slightly rolling (a net downhill). At about 4.8 miles, runners will see the first exchange to the left, but they will still have a little further to go to reach the turn to get there. At 5.01 miles (a third of a mile from the finish), after having just crossed over a few long bridges, runners will take a left on Co Rd 361. There is also a historical marker here. At the left turn, runners will go down a short hill and then onto the dirt road. They will follow this around a bend to the right and proceed to Exchange 2, located right at Sam Houston's Oak!

LEG 3

4.86 MILES

The dirt on leg 3 can be variable depending on several factors... two of the biggest factors are the last time it was graded and when the last rainfall took place. As of mid-February, the dirt on Co Rd 361 was pretty loose and a little rocky. Regardless, Leg 3 runners will proceed down Co Rd 361 until it ends at Co Rd 357. Here, runners will take a left on Co Rd 357. For whatever reason, directional cones at this small intersection have disappeared most of the years of the TIR. There are plans to also have a small yard sign that points the way (in addition to the cone), since chalk is useless on the dirt roads. As always, it is best to know the directions so that you could do the leg without any directional assistance. Leg 3 is rolling. While it is standard to run on the left side facing traffic, when runners approach hills on these smaller dirt roads, it is advisable for them to run up these inclines on the right side of the road. The vehicles coming behind can see them while an oncoming vehicle cresting a hill may not be aware of the runner on the other side. Runners will continue on 357 for about just over a mile and a half. Runners will see an oil field on the left, and then a dirt road on the right. This road is Co Rd 355, and runners should turn right onto it. About a quarter mile after this turn, 355 curves 90 degrees to the right (at 3.87 miles) and then it curves back 90 degrees to the left another quarter mile after that (at 4.13 miles). After this second curve, runners will have a straight 0.75 mile run to the finish. BUT, we're sure runners will be thrilled to see a nice little climb to finish off the leg. So, thoughtful runners will save a little bit to look strong all the way to the hand-off!

LEG 4

4.08 MILES

In short, Leg 4 should be easy. Just stay on Co Rd 355. There are some curves on 355 and that's fine. Just don't turn on any other road. It's mostly dirt and then turns into a paved country road near the end. The Leg 4 runner will have the slightest of descents before it curves around left and goes around some stately oaks and under tree branches that span over the road. A little over a half mile into the leg, runners will go by an oil field driveway on the left and then immediately by Co Rd 363 that goes off to the right. Just after that is the start of a long gradual ascent of about 150 feet that goes for about a mile. It's not that steep, but leg 4 runners will definitely say otherwise! Runners can enjoy expansive country views. At 1.25 miles, Co Rd 354 goes off to the left. Don't turn. Stay straight on 355... there is a third of a mile of hill left to climb after going by 354. After cresting the hill and going down just a little bit, 355 has a 90 degree turn to the right which is shortly afterward followed up by a 90 degree turn to the left. Runners will continue to the intersection of 355 & 364 at 3.07 miles. This intersection can serve as the mile-to-go marker. Shortly after that, country road pavement begins, and then runners will reach Exchange 4!

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 5

3.92 MILES

The first 2.24 miles of Leg 5 continue on 355, but these miles are straight as an arrow towards Shiner. (355 actually becomes 349, but this is not really noticeable... just stay straight.) Co Rd 355(349) eventually T's into 348. Here runners cross the street and take a right. Immediately after taking the right, runners take a left onto the shoulder of 90A. After taking this left, runners have just a bit before country becomes more and more town of Shiner! 90A is the main road of Shiner. Runners will pass by a park on the left just before reaching the commercial downtown part of Shiner. Then, runners will take a sharp left (visibility around this turn is not that great) before running a country city block to the exchange!

LEG 6

4.10 MILES

As soon as teams reach downtown Shiner, they are going right back out again... this time a little bit more North than West. At the exchange, runners will be taking a left as they get the baton onto N Avenue D. It doesn't take long before runners are in the residential part of Shiner. At 0.33 miles, Ave D T's into 12th. Runners will take a right here, and then just 2 blocks later, runners will take a left on Avenue B, and runners will follow Avenue B out of town. One unique detail about this leg is that as runners are nearing the outskirts of town, they will pass Gonzales Street on the right, and then not more than 100 yards later, they will pass San Jacinto Street to the left! So, Leg 6 runners can claim they ran in the Texas Independence Relay and ran from Gonzales to San Jacinto all by themselves in about half a minute! And, not long after that, they crossed ALL OF TEXAS and all the way to Louisiana! (Texas Street, that is... which is about 200 meters past San Jacinto Street and then Louisiana Street which is right after that.) After all of that excitement, runners will continue north on Ave B which becomes Co Rd 351 as it leaves town. Runners will pass a cemetery and then a large park (both on the left). And, eventually (3.5 miles into the run) 351 reaches a stop sign, T'ing into 351/353 (351 to the left and 353 to the right). Runners will take a left after reaching the stop sign, thereby staying on 351. A little over a tenth of a mile after that, 351 curves 90 degrees to the right, and runners will stay on 351 going up a hill and reaching the exchange a little less than a half a mile from the curve (and a little over half a mile from the stop sign).

LEG 7

3.71 MILES

Leg 7 runners continue on 351 and enjoy wide countryside vistas! At 1.6 miles into the leg, Co Rd 351 curves to the right (90 degrees), but 351A goes to the left. So, even though runners are staying on 351, we're treating it like a right turn. Then a quarter mile later (3.85 miles) the road curves back left again. After this curve to the left, the road becomes a dirt road. Co Rd 351 then T's into Co Rd 294 at 2.5 miles into the leg. A rather odd aspect about this leg... Just before reaching Co Rd 294, there is a Texas Historical Marker to the left in the woods. You may not see it as it is SO easy to miss. Being that this is in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road to begin with, and then that it is pretty much in the woods, this must be the winner for the most remote and obscure Texas Historical Marker in the world! And, you got to see it (maybe) on Leg 7! Back to the course... At Co Rd 294 (where 351 T's into it), runners will take a left, and then 294 immediately curves 90 degrees to the right. Runners will continue on 294 until it T's into Co Rd 290. This is at 3.23 miles into the leg. Runners will take a right on 290 and then follow 290 to the exchange.

LEG 8

5.18 MILES

Exchange 7 is on a curve, so leg 8 runners immediately curve back to the north after accepting the hand-off. At 1/3 of a mile into the leg, 290 is a little tricky in that it almost starts to turn to the right, but then it turns to the left (but not 90 degrees) while another road (296 goes to the right). 290 has several curves (a couple are the 90 degree variety), but runners need to stay on 290 until it ends at a stop sign at 532. This is 2.59 miles into the run – exactly halfway! 532 is a bigger paved road. Runners will cross 532 and take a right so that they are facing traffic. After about a half a mile on 532, runners will take a left on 288 (the street sign is not right at the intersection). Not far down on 288, there is a home with a hundred loud barking dogs... ok, maybe more like 7 or 8, but they are very barky for sure. Thankfully, the homeowner is very nice, and they always plan to keep the dogs inside while we parade on by. But, the first team / runner that reaches this spot might get the mega barks-a-lot treatment. A mile and a half after turning onto 288, it T's into 287. Here (4.56 miles into the leg), runners will take a right on 287. Then, .60 of a mile later, 287 T's into 1680 at Old Moulton! Runners will take a left here on 1680 and immediately hand off to the next runner!

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 9 4.68 MILES

After receiving the baton (on I 680), leg 9 runners will take almost an immediate right on Co Rd 285 (on googlemaps and probably on GPS's, this road is labeled Pecan Dr., but the street sign says 285). There are some homes here as this is located in the small community of Old Moulton. About 0.33 miles from the exchange, there is a home with a couple of friendly dogs who enjoy barking, but, from our point of view, more in a playful way. That said, be cautious and confident in handling the dog situation, if it arises. About 1.44 miles into the leg, 285 has a 90 degree turn to the right, and then just after that runners will take a left on Co Rd 284. There is a street sign, but it is nearly impossible to see as it is facing the wrong direction. Missing this turn would be a big bummer. So, do the mental calculation to figure out about when you should reach the 1.5 mile mark, and do not miss this left turn (that immediately follows a 90 degree right curve in the road)! This road eventually becomes a dirt road, with some sections a little loose and a little rocky. Just before 3 miles, you will see a property with a white-poled fence and usually a lot of hay bales. Continue on 284/283 (283 because both 284 and 283 converge here) by veering left here around this property. One exciting aspect about this leg is that it is around this home, that runners will run in three separate Texas counties (Gonzales, Lavaca, and Fayette) in a very short stretch of time! Soon thereafter, runners will reach a very big railroad crossing. Don't ever try to beat a train (or any other James Bond / Indiana Jones maneuvers to get to the other side if one is going by)! This train crossing does not have any red lights or other safety mechanisms. After making that crossing, runners may notice a green sign that says Weidemann Rd. Here 284/283 becomes Weidemann, and your team has completed the dirt road and most rural section of the TIR course! However, leg 9 runners still have a decent hill to climb after the tracks and before reaching Exchange 9!

LEG 10 3.97 MILES

Just after taking possession of the baton, leg 10 runners will take a left to run north on the southbound (left) shoulder of Hwy 95. About 2.25 miles into this leg, leg 10 runners will crest the highest point of the TIR course... 583 feet!!! It's so high that the rarefied air here may make it somewhat difficult for leg 10 runners to breathe! But, they will likely manage, and it's all downhill (overall) from here. Nearing 3 miles into this leg, runners will be able to see the beginnings of the city of Flatonia and enjoy a nice decline to this wonderful downtown! Just like the Boston Marathon, the TIR also has a famous and significant Citgo gas station sign. The TIR's is located in Flatonia. Immediately after the Citgo gas station (BEFORE the train tracks), runners will take a right (crossing 95 perpendicularly and with appropriate caution) on W South Main to get to Exchange 10, which is right at the gazebo and Lyric Theater!

LEG 11 4.31 MILES

Starting in Flatonia from in front of the Lyric, runners will take an immediate right on Market Street (0.04 miles). Runners will run the residential street (a little bit of a climb) until it turns into E South County Road (also known as Old Hallettsville Road). There runners will take a left. Across the street is the Flatonia water tower and power plant station. After taking a left on E South County Road, runners will go by Flatonia's Bulldog Stadium and track to the left - It's straight out of Friday Night Lights - and runners will enjoy a nice gradual descent for a while. At 1.42 miles, the road curves 90 degrees to the right (and goes up a slight uphill before descending again). The country setting is wonderful here. Then, at just before 2 miles, the road has a pretty good curve to the left followed by a corresponding curve to the right, and then there is a little climb to the 2.6m mark. At 2.6 miles, runners will take a left on S Knezek Rd. Though Knezek has two ninety degree turns (one to the left at 3.12m (a touch over 5K) and then the next that turns to the right at 3.45 miles), runners will stay on Knezek all the way to the next exchange in Praha. The country roads on legs 11, 12, and 13 are small, paved country roads that are great for running! When runners start to see homes that are close to the road, they are very near to the finish. When in Praha, and if a service is not in session (and there is a Saturday mass at 4:30- 5:30 which is right in the middle of when teams will be reaching this exchange), people should check out St. Mary's. It's stunning on the inside, and, undoubtedly many TIR runners will have established a decent list to confess!

LEG 12 6.13 MILES

At the very start of Leg 12, runners should use caution as the cross traffic on I 295 does not have a stop sign. After crossing I 295, leg 12 runners will continue on Knezek. At 0.63 miles (just over a kilometer), Knezek will curve to the left, and then right after this curve (at 0.66 miles) runners will take a right on Klekar Gin Road. At 1.65 miles, just over a little hill, there are small crossroads, but runners will continue straight on Klekar Gin. Soon thereafter, the road makes a large sweeping curve to the right, and then at 2.22 miles, it makes a 90 degree turn to the left. After that, however, Klekar Gin straightens out for quite sometime, affording excellent panoramic views. Finally, after 3.5 miles, the road bends to the left (not one of the 90 degree turns, though), and then at almost 4 miles exactly, runners will take a right on Wolters Road. All of these country roads are excellent. Runners will follow Wolters all the way to the exchange (a straight shot from the turn), which is at 6.13 miles (or 2.13 miles after the turn).

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 13 **6.05 MILES**

Leg 13 runners will continue on Wolters, passing fields and also some wooded sections. At 1.27 miles, it looks like the road could possibly be curving right or continue straight, and runners will want to stay straight here. At 2.07 miles, Wolters makes a 90 degree turn to the left to head north. And a little bit after this turn, runners will enjoy a nice downhill, and will almost certainly see plenty of cattle. At 2.95 miles, Wolters turns left again, and for a little bit runners are running alongside a banked Railroad track. At 3.29 miles, runners will take a right on Victor Lane. Here runners will run under a railroad track (very country feel to it) and at the same time they will likely be navigating around a little bit of water that comes from a small creek. It's more dry (and more shallow) if you stay to the left. Immediately after going under the tracks and over the creek, runners will take a right on the shoulder of Hwy 90 (3.33 miles). Because they will be taking another right a little over a mile later, runners should stay on the right hand shoulder. At 3.95 miles, 90 narrows for just a little bit (as it's a bridge over the creek), so runners should be aware and exercise appropriate caution here. At 4.5 miles, leg 13 runners will take a right on Old Hwy 90 (which becomes N Main St). It is right after this turn that everyone can stop and enjoy the official fainting goats of the TIR (cared for by the Liehardt's!). Old Hwy 90 curves to the left, and then runners will continue on this road all the way to the exchange in downtown Schulenburg at Sengelmans!

LEG 14 **6.38 MILES**

After taking off down Main Street in Schulenburg, runners will reach Herder (where Main T's into it), and then runners will take a left a S Main (and go over train tracks). Just like that, the route is back into beautiful countryside! A number of runners may get to experience this run during the "magic hour", and it will be gorgeous! It is a little odd that there are 2 distinct turns that will be made to stay on Oakland Road, but the turns are straightforward. There are a couple of treed sections on this leg, and in one of them, runners will go over a very small wooden bridge that will be sure to bring a grin. There are a couple of rolling hills on this leg, however, and it is a little on the longer side, so it is also one of the more challenging legs. After the last turn on CoRd 250, runners will have just over a mile to go. The finish is down a long straightaway that offers great visibility. There is a sign over the cattle guard (where the exchange is located) that says "Molly's Corral", so that is the name of this leg!

LEG 15 **5.33 MILES**

Continuing on CoRd 250, runners will soon follow the curve left so that they will be running north. At about 1.2 miles, CoRd 250 curves back to the right, but right after the beginning of this curve, runners will turn left onto CoRd 251. This turn almost looks more like a fork in the road than a regular turn. If a runner didn't turn (and continued curving to the right), they would go over a bridge that goes over a little stream. Hopefully, no one does that! CoRd 251 continues north and T's into CoRd 253 (at 2.36 miles). Runners will take a right, and this road will take the Leg 15 runners to Weimar! At 3 miles, runners will go over a little-used bridge that goes over I-10. The 3 mile mark is directly over the median between westbound and eastbound I-10. Shortly thereafter CoRd 253 will curve to the right and run right next a railroad track. By looking straight ahead, runners will see the iconic Weimar water tower (which is just a quarter mile from the finish of the leg)! When coming into town, runners will take a left on College St. This is the first left, runners can make. They will cross over the tracks and reach the water tower. The runners will then take a right (after crossing) onto Main, and then they will race to the great Weimar exchange that rewards them with their souvenir baton, great music, and fun!

LEG 16 **6.35 MILES**

Leg 16 offers a new way to view Wiemar! Right at the exchange, instead of going east on Hwy 90 (like the TIR has done for 12 years), Leg 16 runners will now take an immediate left onto N Mechanic. Runners will soon be going through a residential section of Weimar, and will go behind the back of historic St. Michael's church. At just over a half mile, runners will reach an intersection that is a little different... it looks like N Mechanic ends at E Huvar, but Mechanic actually continues.. it just doesn't line up exactly with itself (on either side of Huvar). It is also a 4-way stop, but since Mechanic doesn't line up, it just looks strange (for a 4-way stop). Regardless, runners should take a right on Huvar. At exactly 1 mile, runners will make another turn, but again it is a little unique in that it is so close to simply going straight! Right before the "turn", Huvar begins to curve to the right just slightly. And, it meets CoRd 202 on the very end of its own curve, so when runners take a left onto 202, in a way, they are just continuing straight. It is a very slight "turn" for sure, and the best way to understand what we are saying here is to take a look at this on googlemaps. Anyway, runners are back in the country by the time they reach 202. The next turn is at 2.13m, where CoRd 202 T's into 201/204. Runners will take a right here and run on 201. Then, a half mile later, leg 16 runners will take a left on CoRd 209. From here, runners will run due east for over 3 miles. Near 6 miles into the leg, CoRd 209 makes a large sweeping curve to the south, and runners will know that they are almost there! Just before reaching the exchange, runners will cross over train tracks, and the exchange is where CrRd 209 T's into CoRd 217.

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 17 **6.78 MILES**

Leg 17 runners will make the immediate left turn onto CoRd 217 to continue east on a relatively small country road. At 3.55 miles, runners will take a left on run on the shoulder of 90 (facing traffic) where CoRd 217 T's into 90. Most years, is no street sign here for Hwy 90, but we're feeling pretty good that most of the Leg 17 runners will make this turn. Leg 17 runners will then run a little over 3 miles further until they reach the train switching station on the west side of Columbus in a small community named Glidden!

LEG 18 **4.42 MILES**

Runners tackling leg 18 will continue eastward on 90. At 0.62 miles (or 1 kilometer), runners will go beneath the Hwy 71 overpass. Then, at 1.05 miles, runners will take a right on Oak Cluster Rd. At 1.58 miles, runners will take a left on Montezuma (where Oak Cluster T's into it). Technically, Montezuma ends at a stop sign at Rampart Street. But, it is the slightest right turn (more of a veering right) on Rampart, followed by an immediate left (again, more of a veering left) that gets runners on Houston Street. This right and left veering occurs at 2.82 miles. Runners will take Houston straight and will cross Fannin (a large street with a traffic light) at exactly 3 miles. Runners will continue straight on Houston Street until they reach Milam at 3.38 miles. Here runners will take a right on Milam, running so that they are on the left side facing traffic. When runners first turn onto Milam, it is a residential area that is lined with US flags! About a half mile later it becomes commercial, as runners will pass in front of a WalMart, HEB, Jack In the Box, and a Shell Station before crossing beneath I-10. Obviously, runners need to run with great caution here as cars will be turning in and out of the driveways in this commercial district of Columbus that is just off I-10. After crossing beneath I-10, runners will pass a McDonald's, a couple of hotels, and Los Cabos restaurant. Then, runners will take a left into the first Snappy's Service Station and Convenience Mart driveway. Leg 18 runners must go around the back of Snappy's to reach Exchange 18 (avoiding any traffic coming in and out of the gas station).

LEG 19 **3.70 MILES**

Immediately upon receiving the baton, leg 19 runners will keep to the outside of the Snappy's parking lot and will take a left onto the Hwy 71 shoulder (running so that they are facing traffic). 3.25 miles after leaving Exchange 18, runners will STOP AND LOOK BOTH WAYS before crossing over Hwy 71 to take a right onto CoRd 103. After crossing 71 to get on 103, runners will take an immediate left onto CoRd 102 to go to the Robert R. Wells (Columbus) Airport, where Exchange 19 is located. Most likely, this exchange (or the next exchange) is where it would be recommended that teams arrange half the runners to handle the upcoming handful of legs (to get to Exchange 25 in Wallis) while the rest goes to get some rest at Brazos HS (just 2 miles east of Wallis on Hwy 36). Then at exchange 25 in Wallis, the half-teams will swap roles.

LEG 20 **6.82 MILES**

Leg 20 starts from right in front of the airport and continues south on County Rd 102. For a little bit, the road is paved, but then it becomes a dirt road. As with all dirt roads at the TIR, this should be a "No Dust Zone", but it may be advisable to bring a bandana, just in case. Co Rd 102 is very straight and passes by Co Rd 101 at 1.82 miles. At 4.63 miles, Co Rd 102 curves to the left (there is no other choice). Then, half a mile later (at 5.1 miles), runners MUST STOP AND LOOK BOTH WAYS before cautiously crossing Hwy 71. After crossing Hwy 71, what was just Co Rd 102 becomes County Road 16. Co Rd 16 immediately curves to the right after crossing 71. It could almost look like it could go straight, but it should quickly become apparent that this is a driveway into a quarry (and it has a gate). After following the CoRd 16 curve to the right, runners will continue on Co Rd 16 all the way into Altair. At one point, it may look like there is a fork in the road. Continue on Co Rd 16 (or Clay St) by veering right. At Main Street, take a left and follow Main Street to Exchange 20 at Main and East Street... at the lit silo! (Another quick word. No trespassing into private property or public property that is not opened to you. Do not go into this (or other) grain silo(s), closed schools, churches, office buildings, retail stores, or homes that are not owned by the TIR (which we're pretty sure means all of them)).

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 21 **6.82 MILES**

Starting from the intersection of Main and East, Leg 21 runners will run south on East Street for just about 50 yards before turning left onto Hwy 90A. Runners will stay on the left (north) side shoulder of 90A, facing traffic. Runners will cross train tracks just after 1.5 miles, and then at close to 2.4 miles, runners will cross over the Altair River Bridge (from 2.4 to 2.73 miles). Though the lanes are wide, there really isn't a shoulder. There should be police officers on both ends. That said, should a runner decide that they want their team to give them a ride to the other side (it's about a quarter mile), this is totally allowed. After the bridge, runners have just over 4 miles to go before reaching the exchange on 90A.

LEG 22 **2.84 MILES**

From Exchange 21, runners continue east on 90A. Leg 22 will stay on Hwy 90A through Eagle Lake. This means that runners should curve to the right (so that the Dairy Queen is to the left), and then the leg will go by a Buccee's (which will be to the right 1.13 miles into the run). Of course, Buccee's prides themselves on having spotless bathrooms, and we have mostly had the option of this portable toilet or that one all day long. So, this might give this Buccee's quite a test! Runners will continue on 90A until they reach the stop sign (with a blinking red light). Here, at 1.96 miles, they will take a left onto FM 3013. Runners will run on the left (southbound) shoulder of 3013 until they will stop and look both ways to cross over 3013 and take a right on FM 1093. Exchange 22 will be right here at this intersection.

LEG 23 **6.52 MILES**

Leg 23 runners will continue straight on 1093 (which is pretty much a straight shot to Wallis. This leg is flat and straight, and the stars can be very bright on this leg! Exchange 23 is at the eastern end of a giant grain elevator. Runners should run facing traffic (of which there is very little). That said, there is not a large shoulder (but it does have a natural shoulder). If an oncoming vehicle makes a runner feel apprehensive in the slightest, that runner should stop and step off the road completely and wait for the vehicle to pass by.

LEG 24 **5.05 MILES**

Continuing on FM 1093, leg 24 does not have any turns, but it does have 2 sweeping curves! It finishes by 2-Driveways (which is our name for this exchange for over a decade)! As with the last leg, runners should run facing traffic, and not hesitate to stop and get completely off the road to let any motorist go by that the runner is even slightly unsure about.

LEG 25 **6.08 MILES**

After a good bit of time on FM 1093 (see 1093 instructions above), runners finally reach Wallis! FM 1093 T's into Hwy 36 (3.4 miles into leg 24). Here, runners cross 36 and take a right on 36 (so that they are running on the shoulder that would be facing traffic). From the turn, they can see the Wallis lights, and will get to run through the city and by the Wallis sign! Exchange 25, however, is located at Brazos High School, which is almost another couple of miles down Hwy 36. When reaching the high school, runners will need to look both ways before crossing 36 and going into the rectangular driveway in front of the school. Once on the driveway, runners will take 2 lefts before reaching the exchange.

LEG 26 **6.40 MILES**

Leg 26 runners, after making sure there is no oncoming traffic, will immediately cross Hwy 36 and then take a right on the northbound shoulder (across the street). Runners will continue on 36 all the way to 1489 (Simonton Road)... this intersection is 3.62 miles from the start of the leg. It has traffic lights, and bright street lights that light up the area well. After taking a left here at Simonton Road (FM 1489), runners will cross over train tracks (and they very likely will have seen a train during their time on 36... if so, you'll know). After the turn and after crossing the tracks, runners will have about 2.5 miles until they reach the bridge that spans over the mighty Brazos River. When going over the bridge, runners will have just a little bit further to go as the exchange is just on the other side.

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 27 **2.79 MILES**

Leg 27 runners will continue straight North on FM 1489 (Simonton Road). Previously, the exchange has been at the intersection of FM 1489 and FM 1093, where teams would turn to run eastward to Fulshear. However, the parking was getting a little unwieldy. So, now, runners will continue past the intersection (at 2.5 miles) and run straight on 1489 / Simonton Road for another quarter mile to the exchange which is now at Anthonie's, a new restaurant that has a large and lit parking lot!

LEG 28 **5.02 MILES**

Coming out of Anthonie's parking lot, runners will take a right to head back in the same direction that leg 27 runners are coming from. However, it is only about a quarter mile before runners will take a left on 1093 in "downtown" Simonton to head to Fulshear. It's on this leg that runners (and teams) will see the first glimpses of subdivisions that are on the outer westernmost edge of metro Houston! The sun will be coming up for a number of teams on this leg. After the initial turn onto 1093, it is a straight shot all the way to downtown Fulshear and exchange 28 at the Shell Station!

LEG 29 **4.69 MILES**

At exchange 28, runners will leave the Shell station and be on the sidewalk that runs along FM 1093. At 0.45 miles runners will pass Katy-Fulshear Road, and then at 0.71 miles they will reach Charger Way / Bois D'Arc Ln. There is a traffic light here (and it is the first traffic light from the Exchange). Since the runners are running against traffic, the traffic light and the street sign face the other direction. So, if runners are not sure that they are at the correct road, they may need to turn around and look to see the road sign (which says Bois D'Arc Ln). Here, runners will take a left (and it is just after taking the left that the road becomes Charger Way. This is at 0.71 miles into the leg. After taking the left, runners will go up an incline, and the large Fulshear School complex (with the High School and Junior High) will be on the right. Leg 29 runners will continue on Charger Way until it T's into Fulshear Bend. This is at the 1.52 mile mark. After taking the right on Fulshear Bend, runners will run on the left side of the road, facing traffic. Just beyond the 2 mile mark, leg 29 runners will come to a traffic circle. The crossroad is Texas Heritage Pkwy, but runners will continue straight on Fulshear Bend. Just a little over a 1/4 mile later, runners will cross W Cross Creek Bend (a larger intersection), and they will stay on Fulshear Bend all the way to exch 29. They will cross Cross Creek Bend Ln (an intersection with a traffic light) at the 4 mile mark (just 2/3 of a mile from the leg's finish, which is located at Fulshear Bend and 1469 (at the HEB Cross Creek Shopping Center).

LEG 30 **6.08 MILES**

When Leg 30 runners receive the baton, they will be on the north (left hand) side of the road. They will immediately cross FM 1463, and it is here (at exchange 29) that Fulshear Bend becomes Cinco Ranch Blvd. Runners will want to run on the sidewalk that is on the left hand side of Cinco Ranch (facing traffic). There are a couple of short times early on where the sidewalk drifts away from Cinco Ranch Blvd a little bit, but then it comes back. Leg 30 runners just need to make sure they stay alongside Cinco Ranch. While running down Cinco Ranch, Leg 30 runners will pass through a few intersections with traffic lights. These are Spring Green (2.08 mi), Katy Gaston (2.28 mi), Gaston (3.17 mi). At 4.35 miles, runners will go over a small bridge - it's the Buffalo Bayou, and this is the TIR's first "interaction" with the great Buffalo Bayou! Shortly after that, runners will come to the end of running behind houses, and they will reach the intersection of Westheimer and Cinco Ranch at 4.8 miles (this is the 4th intersection with traffic lights). Runners will cross Westheimer and then take a right on it to run on the sidewalk along Westheimer (facing traffic). Leg 30 runners will be directly in front of a super Target at 5.2 miles and will know that they have less than a mile to go. The finish is also on Westheimer, so they will just stay straight. They will cross beneath Grand Parkway (99) just after 5.5 miles. The finish will be at Good Times Running Company, where there's always a party!

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 31 **5.32 MILES**

As great as a spot Good Times will be, the relay must go on! The leg 31 runner will continue on Westheimer Pkwy. They will cross Mason (normally a very busy street) at about a half mile into the run. 1.5 miles later, at the two mile mark, runners will cross Fry. A little less than 0.25 miles after crossing Fry, runners will pass the homes, go over a little bayou bridge and begin to run into more of a green space. The cement block sidewalk will give way to more of an asphalt path, and this is the beginning of the George Bush Trail. The path will then turn 90 degrees to the left (going away from Westheimer Pkwy) and go around soccer fields. If you find yourself running way off the path and running on grass, you're likely running off the course. At a shed-like equipment storage structure at the far end of the soccer fields parking lot, the path will turn left again to go further into the park. Runners continue on this path. About 600 meters after the soccer field parking lot (and right at 3 miles into the leg), the path goes over a small bridge that crosses the bayou and then T's into another path. Take a right there. One mile later (4 miles into the leg), runners will begin to go over a quarter mile long boardwalk! After the boardwalk, it is only 1 mile to Exchange 31 - at the eastern end of the George Bush Equestrian parking area.

LEG 32 **6.79 MILES**

Leg 32 is run almost entirely on the George Bush Hike and Bike Trail. Just a few steps into the leg, the path turns due north. Runners continue on the path, crossing over the new bridge at 1.55 miles) and going all the way until it exits out on the north end on a very small street named Barker Clodine Rd. This exit is at 2.73 miles. You would hardly even know that you left the park if it weren't for the gate to keep vehicles out (and then the yellow line in the middle of the road a little bit later). About 200-300 meters after leaving the park, runners will pass an apartment complex on the right and will see some homes up ahead to the left (that are not on this street). Then, runners will see a little rise in road (the reservoir embankment) and I-10 straight ahead. IMMEDIATELY after coming down the other side of this incline and immediately after a yellow diamond-shaped pedestrian warning sign, there is a small road / driveway that turns right. Turn right and follow this... this turn is 3.33 miles into the leg. 200 meters after this right turn, the driveway turns left, but the George Bush Hike and Bike Trail picks up (going straight where the driveway turns left). Hop on the trail and know that you are now over halfway done! The path parallels I-10 for a little over 2.25 miles before it begins to curve southward (~5.6 miles). After completing the curve, leg 32 runners are now running parallel to Hwy 6. A little over a half mile after the curve, leg 32 veers towards Hwy 6. When runners get close to Hwy 6 and near the big water gorge, it will become evident how to run the little dipsy-do to run underneath Hwy 6 and get to the 32nd Exchange. Exchange 32 is at the start of the Terry Hershey Trail!

LEG 33 **6.61 MILES**

The Terry Hershey Trail is an enviable trail that meanders eastward into Houston. Just shy of 1.5 miles into the leg, runners will come up to Eldridge Pkwy (the first road that cuts across over the trail - it is very noticeable). Leg 33 runners must come up to Eldridge (there is no choice, the trail takes you up alongside the road), run on the little pedestrian walkway that is right next to the road to go over to the north side of the bayou and then veer left on the path to loop back underneath Eldridge. We call this a dipsy-do. Runners should keep in mind that they are to head east down the Bayou. So, when they cross over the trail and then have to very temporarily do a U-turn to go back down to the trail, then obviously, they have to do another U-turn (left) to run under the bridge they just ran on and continue eastward down the trail. Do not come down from the road and then take a right because that would be going the wrong way. If you are confused, by this, please pull up a leg map and review it closely, and it should become clear. After passing underneath Eldridge, runners will follow the trail for about a mile and half before running underneath the second large road that goes over the trail, Dairy Ashford (3.07 miles). Runners keep going and will run under Kirkwood (4.16 miles), and then they will finally come up off the trail (a left "exit") to come up to a street named Wilcrest. This is 5.25 miles into the leg. On Wilcrest, runners will take a right, staying on the right hand side, running WITH traffic. Runners will stay on Wilcrest for almost a mile and a half until they reach the exchange at Wilcrest and Briar Forest.

TIR WRITTEN DIRECTIONS

LEG 34 **4.82 MILES**

From the intersection of Wilcrest and Briar Forest, Leg 34 runners will immediately take a left onto Briar Forest and head east towards Houston. Briar Forest becomes Memorial when Memorial meets Briar Forest at 2.95 miles. Then, a little later (at 3.65 miles) the name of the road changes again to San Felipe (where Memorial veers off). In short, just stay straight, running on the left side of the road, notwithstanding the name changes. Then, immediately after crossing Voss, runners will take a left on Voss and head north. This is just before the 4.5 mile mark. Here they will pass a retail shopping area, and they will pass Whole Foods (to the right). Runners will continue on the sidewalk that will naturally start to curve to the right, so that the runners will effectively be taking a right on Woodway. This curve (or turn) to the right is just before exchange 34, which will be at the large parking lot for the Kelsey Seybold Clinic (and across from Second Baptist and Fleet Feet!).

LEG 35 **4.67 MILES**

From the exchange, leg 35 runners continue east on Woodway for another 0.66 miles before taking a right on Potomac. Though this is in a nice part of Houston, this particular sidewalk along Woodway is fairly rough. If it's been wet out, the drainage off the sidewalk is not good. Also, the cement is very uneven. So, be alert and watch your step for the first part of this leg. After taking the right on Potomac, runners will shortly thereafter take a left on Sugar Hill (at 0.74m). Runners will continue on Sugar Hill for almost another mile, and then will take a right onto Tanglewood at 1.69m. This uptown neighborhood is pret-ty swanky! Tanglewood has a really big median with a path that runs down the center of it... Leg 35 runners should go ahead and run on that for .35 miles, and then take a left on Doliver. Runners follow Doliver for .43 miles until it T's at S Post Oak. Here, the runners will very cautiously take a left on S Post Oak and cross over it to run on the right hand sidewalk (going with traffic). Just over a half mile after this turn, runners will reach Woodway again, which is 3.00 miles into this leg. Here, at Woodway and Post Oak, there are fairly decent sized buildings with a lot of glass... most buildings have a lot of glass, but these look particularly glassy. Turn right on Woodway... again staying on the right hand sidewalk. When runners pass the giant 4801 address on the building shortly after this turn, they will know they are on the right path. Runners will stay on this sidewalk, making their way toward the 610 loop, and then will cross beneath 610 at 3.49 miles. After crossing beneath 610, the path widens as the runners are entering Memorial Park! They will cross the Nature center driveway (on green painted cement) at exactly 3.73 miles, and then at 3.99 miles, they will cross under the train tracks and see the Memorial Pedestrian bridge that goes over Woodway/Memorial. They will run underneath it, and then take a left on the path in front of the Cullen Running Center (4.03 miles). Very soon after that, at 4.09 miles, they will cross N Picnic Lane, staying on the south side of Memorial Parkway - the south (and right) side of the tunnels. Runners will avoid turning off of the path that leads to the track parking lot, and they will not veer left to cross over the land bridge over the Memorial Pkwy vehicular tunnels. They will stay on this main path (the one with the light poles) which will be a little annoying with its wide sweeping curves just before the end of the leg. After passing the path that leads over the second tunnel runners will finish by taking a right off the main trail in the picnic area (just .01 miles off the main path).

TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 36 6.65 MILES

At 6.65 miles, some leg 36 runners will say this leg is perilously close to hell itself. At the same time, since it is one of the longest legs, it's perhaps the most glorious of the TIR's ~200 glorious miles!

From exchange 35, runners will take an immediate left followed up with an immediate right (both in the first 0.05 miles) to get back on the main path alongside Memorial Drive. Runners will then stay right alongside Memorial for almost 2 miles. They will cross S Picnic Loop at 0.20 miles, the Memorial Maintenance Facility at 0.66 miles (the path turns to dirt for just a little bit after that), and then they will pass Crestwood and the Arlington Court condominiums (where the sidewalk becomes cement again) at 0.83 miles. Runners will pass by a retail section of Memorial Drive (Comerica Bank, gas stations, etc) from 1.25 miles to 1.55 miles. At 1.85 miles, runners will stay on the sidewalk as though they were taking the Shepherd Drive exit ramp. Then, at 1.98 miles, before reaching Shepherd, runners will take a right onto the Buffalo Bayou Walk Path. This is the last arrow mark or turn sign that runners will see for awhile as they stay on this path for the next 3.6 miles.

In a nutshell, staying on this path is straightforward. It is ALWAYS the main (widest) path with the lights every 50 feet (with the spaceship-looking top). Second, the bayou should ALWAYS remain on the runners' right as they head to downtown (and around the north side of town for a bit). If the bayou is ever on the runners left, they either crossed over and are running on the wrong side of the bayou or, heaven forbid, they are running the wrong direction away from downtown. Finally, this course description, the GoogleMap, and pictures of the route will also guide leg 36 runners.

At 2.05 miles, runners will pass under Shepherd, and at 2.15 miles, runners will take a right (a left just goes back to Shepherd). Runners will see the light poles with the spaceship tops, and they will stay on this path. At 2.54 miles, runners will pass under the Jackson Hill pedestrian bridge and continue on the path. At 2.7 miles, runners will pass under Vaugh Drive that has a budding bat population as evidenced by the unmistakable guano aroma! At 3.10 miles (5K), runners will pass underneath Studemont, and then immediately go by (and under) the Rosemont Pedestrian Bridge (3.15 miles). At 3.50 miles, leg 36 runners go under Memorial Drive (for just a little bit), and the Bayou does as well. The runners will still be on the main (widest path) with the spaceship light poles, and with the bayou on their right. Runners will pass the Carruth Pedestrian Bridge that goes to the Houston Police Memorial at 3.75 miles, and they will continue on the path passing back under Memorial Drive (3.92 miles). At 4.25 miles, runners will pass by the path that goes up to the Waterworks, and they will pass beneath the Sabine Street Bridge at 4.34 miles. At ~4.5 miles, runners will run under I-45 and a lot of interstate entrances and exits. The Bayou City Art Festival will be taking place across on the other side of the bayou, so runners may be able to ascertain that an event is taking place. They will pass by the Hobby Center Pedestrian Bridge at 4.61 miles, and then they will reach the blue of the Houston Aquarium and Amusement Park at 4.86 miles. It is here that the Spaceship lights end, but the runners will continue on the widest path, and they have just over a half mile before coming off the path. At 4.94 miles, the path splits. The small path goes to a statue of George Bush, and the wider path (on the right) goes under the next city street (Preston). Runners will take the wider path to the right, and pass under Preston at 5.00 miles. It is here that the runners will be able to first see the UHD (University of Houston - Downtown) building. It is a building with white rows goes across and reddish-brown vertical columns. The runners will be going around this building and then coming off the path. Between 5.13 miles and 5.5 miles, leg 36 runners will pass under a series of streets. They will go around the south side of the school (there is a wall with birds painted on it), go around a corner, and then they pass under a pedestrian bridge at 5.53 miles. It is this pedestrian bridge that runners will be using to cross the bayou and exit the path. At 5.6 miles, runners will see I-10 (straight ahead and up) and the big UHD "Determined, Dedicated, Downtown" advertisement. The runners will then take a left U-turn off the path (at 5.65 miles - so, 1 mile to go)!

The runners will cross the pedestrian bridge at 5.75 miles, and then they will cross San Jacinto Street and take a left at 5.84 miles.

From here, runners are close to finishing! At 5.94 miles, they will take a right on Wood Street (staying on the right). Wood curves to the left, and the runners will take a right on Sterrit at 6.06 miles. At 6.23 miles, Sterrit ends, and the runner will cross all of McKee, and take a left. As this veers, the runner will be on the bicycle lane of Hardy. They will take a right on Rothwell (6.4 miles), and they will be able to see the TIR finish and Saint Arnold's on the other side of I-10, 0.25 miles away! They will take a left on the Elysian pedestrian bridge (6.46 miles), and they will reach Providence (north side of I-10) at 6.52. They will take a right on Providence, and then a left on Maury (6.56 mi) and join their team to run through the TIR tunnel and have a most Glorious Texas Independence Relay finish with their team!