

Welcome to raiseRED 2026!



Thank you for registering for our dance marathon and joining the change! Change is out there, and by joining us in this fight we are able to create change in the lives of so many patients and families impacted by pediatric cancer.

Together on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 10 a.m. we will have our marathon to celebrate our hard work and honor our raiseRED kids and families! In order to be eligible to attend the marathon, dancers must raise a fundraising minimum of \$200 before Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

For any questions or assistance with your fundraising page, please contact our Dancer Relations Coordinator, Nelia Smithson (dancerrelations.raisered@gmail.com). We can't wait to see you at the marathon to keep fundraising so that we can Change Kids' Health and Change the Future!

Arrival & Check-in

Location:

University of Louisville
Swain Student Activities Center
Multipurpose Room (W200)

Time:

Check-in from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Parking:

Park in your designated color
pass area or the Floyd Street
Garage.

Tips for a Smooth Check-in

- Arrive early to avoid long lines, but after 8:30 a.m.
- Have your UofL student ID (Cardinal Card) ready at the check in table - must have your student ID to check in.
- Carpool or get dropped off for convenience.
- To make check-in faster, **you can stop by our raiseRED table at the SAC ballroom for early incentive pickup.** Pick up the incentives you've earned anytime on:
 - **Tuesday, 2/17 from 11:30-1:00 p.m.**
 - **Wednesday, 2/18 from 11:30-1:00 p.m.**
 - **Thursday, 2/19 from 11:30-1:00 p.m.**
 - During incentive pickup, you can pick up your fanny pack (but be sure to bring this back to the marathon) and many of the additional fundraising incentives you may have earned! All other fundraising incentives can be picked up at the marathon on February 21.

What to bring?

Baggage Claim

To secure dancer belongings, we will be utilizing a REQUIRED baggage claim system for any backpacks, large purses, tote bags, or other bags larger than a fanny pack brought to the SAC and additional items during the marathon. After check-in you will be directed to the baggage claim. You will be able to access your belongings throughout the marathon. We encourage you to bring items, but remember space is limited in the baggage claim, so check out our suggested packing list! You can also grab your provided fanny pack during early incentive pickup, pack it with everything you need, and avoid checking additional items into baggage claim if you would prefer.

What to bring?

(suggested packing list)

Clothing

- Your color team shirt and a fanny pack, which are provided at check-in
- Comfortable shoes
- Accessories to match your color team!
- Note: No glitter items or feathers are allowed in the Student Activities Center.

Toiletries

- Deodorant
- Hair ties
- Lip balm
- Any necessary/required medications

Miscellaneous

- Student ID!
- Phone charger
- Water bottle
- Snacks (meals will be provided)
- Wallet (leave valuables at home)

Incentives

\$200

- get into marathon
- fanny pack
- dancer tshirt
- button



every \$500 raised = 1 entry to the drawing for big ticket items. **must be present to win.**

\$500

- button
- ice cream
- tote bag



\$750

- silent disco stage access
- power pack
 - chickfila sandwich OR nuggets
 - coupons to nearby businesses



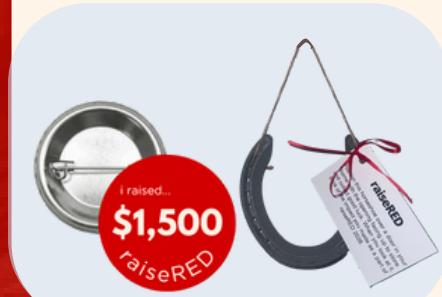
\$1,000

- button
- comma club tshirt
- comma club temporary tattoo



\$1,500

- button
- horseshoe



\$2,000

- button
- "change" hat



\$2,500

a choice between

- 1 pair of Kentucky Kingdom tickets
- 1 pair of Bats home game tickets
- 1 pair of Slugger Museum tickets

KENTUCKY KINGDOM
THEME & WATER PARK



What to expect?

This year, we switched from our 18-hour marathon to a 12-hour marathon from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Throughout the day, each dancer will rotate through a variety of activities with their assigned color teams, hear from important members of our community and our raiseRED clinic families' stories, reflect on our mission, and fundraise because Kids Can't Wait! We will also be providing lunch and dinner, as well as fun treats for those who hit fundraising incentive levels.

Schedule Highlights

Opening Ceremonies

Family Stories

Fundraising

Dodgeball

Color Wars Games

Community Hour

Why I Dance

Angel Hour

Silent Disco

Scavenger Hunt

Lunch & Dinner

Reveal

Opportunities to win prizes

Extra opportunities

- **Mail Call:** This is an opportunity during the marathon that you will get to read encouraging notes to keep you going through the 12 hours. Your friends and family can submit notes that will be printed and given to you during the marathon. Mail call submissions will close on Wednesday, February 18 at 11:59 p.m. and no late submissions can be accepted.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND THE FORM](#)

- **Angel Hour:** This portion of the marathon is a time for our dancers to come together to honor and remember those we are fighting for. Would you like to honor someone you know that is battling, in remission, or has passed away from cancer or a blood disorder? Please use this form to submit names to be listed on the presentation during this portion of the event.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND THE FORM](#)

- **Buzz for a Cure:** Are you interested in taking your fundraising up a notch? Raise \$1,000 (or more), and you can buzz/cut your hair during the marathon at our designated station.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND THE FORM](#)

- **Know Before You Go: Marathon Info Session**

on Monday, February 16th from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in SAC MPR

This is an opportunity for you to learn everything you need to know for the dance marathon and ask our team any questions that you might have!

FAQs

- **Why did raiseRED switch from a 18 hour to 12 hour dance marathon?**

After the raiseRED team reviewed a lot of program feedback, looked at some national data and trends, and met with other dance marathon programs, we decided to shorten our main event to promote growth and success for our beneficiaries. A shorter time frame allows more students to participate without having to balance overnight commitments or compromise their well-being, like sacrificing sleep or experiencing other mental/physical discomforts an 18-hour marathon may cause. We want to create a welcoming environment for everyone. By bringing more students together, we can raise more money and awareness, and make an even bigger impact in the fight against pediatric cancer and blood disorders.

- **Why do I need to raise \$200?**

RaiseRED is a philanthropic organization that raises money for the fight against pediatric cancer and blood disorders. Due to this and our limited capacity, we can only allow dancers that raise a fundraising minimum of \$200 into our annual dance marathon. If you need help with fundraising please take a look at our fundraising resources on our website. <https://www.raisered.org/fundraising>

- **Do I need to bring cash or money with me?**

For safety reasons, we do not recommend bringing a large amount of cash with you to the dance marathon. However, there will be merchandise available for purchase and many other opportunities to fundraise throughout the night. Plan accordingly for your comfort level. Cards will be accepted for merchandise.

- **What is a color team and when will I know what team I'm on?**

Every registered dancer will be assigned to a color team which is led by a member of Morale Staff. Color teams are composed of other members in your organization and other organizations designed to support you through the marathon. During the marathon, you and your color team will compete for Color Wars points against other teams. Only one color team may win! All team assignments have been made and cannot be changed once they are sent out. **If you have not been contacted by your Morale Staff by Saturday, February 14, please let us know by contacting dancerrelations.raisered@gmail.com.**

- **What do I wear?**

At check-in, you will be given a color team t-shirt and a fanny pack. During the marathon, we ask that you wear this t-shirt, but you can choose any other clothing you prefer to wear! We recommend wearing comfortable clothing and shoes. The Student Activities Center is known to get warm during activities, so plan accordingly. Feel free to bring any accessories to match your color team! **NOTE: No glitter items or feathers are allowed in the Student Activities Center.**

- **Do I need to bring cash or money with me?**

We do not recommend bringing a large amount of cash with you to the dance marathon. However, there will be merchandise available for purchase and many other opportunities to fundraise throughout the night. Plan accordingly for your comfort level. Cards will be accepted for merchandise and donations.

- Don't see your question answered here? Check out our contacts on the next slide for help!

Contact us

Jack Geruc - executive.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about our executive board, leadership team, or any general questions or concerns you might have.

Rachel Noschang - finance.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions regarding budget management or high level fundraising strategies.

Jessica Fowlkes - analytics.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about data, fundraising trends, or how our metrics reflect our impact.

Isie Fader - fundraise.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about fundraising methods including templates, unique fundraising ideas, and different options of people you can ask to donate.

Aneeza Ali - sponsorship.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about sponsorship opportunities, donor partnerships, or supporting our events with financial contributions or in-kind donations.

Abby Greene - communications.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions regarding how we share our story, manage our public presence, build partnerships, and ensure that all messaging reflects our mission and impact.

Nelia Smithson - dancerrelations.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions regarding registered dancers, fundraising pages, and emails.

Sam Mazzaro - studentinvolvement.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about team captains supporting RSOs during our dance marathon.

Mia Cassady - tech.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about our website, technology setup at marathon, Engage account, or Youtube channel.

Haven Romero - external.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions regarding our beneficiaries with Norton Children's Cancer Institute or UofL School of Medicine's Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology as well as our community organizations. Additionally, any questions or concerns regarding our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Audit and initiatives.

Mallory Carr - familyrelations.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about raiseRED families including family events, stories, programming, and uplifting the kids in our organization.

Marissa Johns - service.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about service events, our service partners, or about our Service Support Program.

Olivia Cecil - universityoutreach.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about UofL Athletics, UofL Faculty and Staff, and raiseRED Alumni and how our partnerships work.

Carly Lasher - programming.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about our dance marathon.

Arlyn Barbieri - internalprojects.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about pre-events of our dancer marathon including pre-event advice, tabling/speaking at a raiseRED pre-event, any collaboration/partnership request for our pre-events, or any pre-event logistics you wish to discuss.

Reagan Cariño - moralecaptain.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions about becoming involved with our leadership morale team and our line dance that occurs at marathon.

Alexis Jackson - youthphilanthropy.raisered@gmail.com

- Contact when there are any questions/need advice about our mini marathons at a K-12 school or beginning a fundraiser/Mini Marathon.

