



2018 Columbus Marathon Ambassadors to Dresden



Austin Burgess, Alliance Data

Austin is a marketing performance analyst at Alliance Data and passionate member of their philanthropy committee. He is a proud alumnus of The University of Toledo, who fell in love with Columbus just before graduating college and quickly made it his home. He loves to explore by running through the city's unique neighborhoods and volunteering whenever possible, such as for the German Village Society and Mid-Ohio Food Bank. He studied German in high school and has participated in several international exchange programs. He is looking forward to jumping back into the German culture while representing Columbus by connecting with citizens and officials from our sister city.



Christa Lopez, RCG Talent Solutions

Christa is a recruitment consultant, working with different non-profits nationwide. She is a Columbus native and Ohio State graduate. She moved away for 4 years but returned a few years ago to the city she loves. As a kid she would run the Archie Griffin Fun Run and 5Ks with her brother and parents, and used to cheer on her dad when he ran the Columbus Marathon. The Columbus Marathon was also her first full marathon in 2013. She loves to explore Ohio and documents her adventures on Instagram and her blog My Ohio Adventure. Christa is excited to travel to Dresden because it combines her love of running and travel, to be able to represent Columbus, and to learn more about her German background.



Jenna Mackey, Root Insurance Company

Jenna is a life-long runner who ran her first marathon at the Columbus Marathon in 2017. She also competes in triathlon and is a captain and third-year rider in Pelotonia. Jenna is a CPA and has worked at a number of startup companies in Columbus since attending OSU. She enjoys connecting with and learning from people of different backgrounds and experiences. She chose Dresden because of its rich architectural history and modern tech scene. She is looking forward to exploring Dresden and meeting new people!

Dresden Sister City, Inc.

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Dayna McCrary, Franklin County Board of Commissioners

Dayna McCrary is an avid back of the pack runner, wholly embracing John “the Penguin” Bingham’s running philosophy, “The miracle isn’t that I finished. The miracle is that I had the courage to start.” Dayna hopes that others will see her out on the roads at 5:30 a.m. and know that *there is a place for them as well*, “That’s what I love about running. All you need is a good pair of shoes and you’re in business!” Dayna hopes to share a similar message about the importance of inclusion in Dresden, “I am honored to help connect our two cities”.



Bob Pearson, Online Computer Library Center

Bob calls Columbus his home because this is where he got married and raised his kids. Bob has been running since he was 14. Among his favorite races are the Boston Marathon and the Cap City Half because he was the masters winner in that inaugural race. In his free time, Bob likes to study German, and he has been enrolled as a student in the Ohio German Language School, a Saturday school, for over six years. He is looking forward to communicating with his host family in German.

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