



Dallas Marathon Communicator Position Descriptions V.8.1 - 2021

*** Not all positions are used for every Marathon ***

Aid Stations (formerly Water Stops) - Aid Station Communicators provide the Station coordinator and the medical person assigned there a link to resources. Duties include: Reporting any issue relating to the supply needs, safety of the volunteers, the runners and your team. Incidents of outside interference or harassment are to be reported. Requests for and status of station supplies and any other need are communicated to net control (NCS). A mobile transceiver is recommended for this position to ensure reliable communications. An HT to monitor when away from your station is a handy accessory.

- The Marathon Staff would like the lead male and female arrival times at your stations. This is to be recorded and communicated to Net Control. Your Aid Station closes when the Turtle (Tail End Charlie) passes your station. Call NCS with status and permission to secure. Note; Volunteers should remain until Turtle passes as well.
- Aid Station communicators with APRS Digi capability are encouraged to implement this at their locations.
- **Event Resource Functions:** Shadows - ARR S | Aid/Sta. - ARR B | Mobiles/SAGs - ARR M.
<<https://tinyurl.com/ARR-Resource-Guide>>

SAG Communicators (VAN & Cart) - SAG Communicators are to report any issue that occurs with the transport Van, cart or runners on board immediately to the SAG Net. Log the bib number of runners that are ferried to SAG Depot or finish. If a runner has an injury, note that as well. Per HIPAA, any medical condition or name should not be transmitted over the air. All SAG Vans should be equipped with an APRS Tracker. If you do not have your own Tracker, inform the SAG Coordinator so a Tracker can be arranged for your use during the Marathon. SAG staging is at Winfrey Point on the East side of White Rock Lake. Carts will be staged near assigned locations on assignment sheet. Info on key will be provided direct. A mobile transceiver is preferred for reliable communications.

NOTE: Vans have fiberglass tops over the driver section, from there back the top is metal.
Carts have fiberglass tops so a "pizza pan" taped to the top is needed.

SAG Drop (New Position) - A location near the start/finish line where SAG Vans drop off runners brought in from SAG Depots. The Communicator is to keep track of SAG vans arrival/departure times, the number of runners sagged to finish and Bib numbers. This documentation may be requested by Marathon Staff for logistical studies. Please keep a neat log and report info to SAG Net. SAG is an acronym for Supplies and Gear.

SAG Depot (New Position) - The SAG Depots are the SAG cart drop off locations for transfer of runners to SAG Vans. SAG Vans stationed there will then take runners to finish. Communicators at these locations are to keep track of the SAG Vans departure/return times. This information and any relocation of SAG Vans is to be reported to SAG Net. There are 4 SAG Depots. Communicators can go directly to those locations. See map for locations.

Liaison Communicators - There are several liaison communicators each providing a communications link between various nets. A mobile transceiver is recommended for this position.

Main Medical - Main Medical is located in the downtown Start/Finish area. There is a lead communicator along with one or two assistant communicators that provide communications support for the Doctors and Nurses providing medical care. A lead communicator with some medical background above basic first aid is preferred for this function.

Police - Communicator rides with the lead Police vehicle to provide communications back to Net Control. A mobile transceiver is a must for this position. An APRS Tracker is also needed as part of the Comm package.

Command Post - Communicator is to provide communications between the CP and any net as required by the Dallas police or fire-rescue liaisons or the Marathon Staff. Mobile transceiver is a must. Communicator also sets up an APRS station to receive and display Marathon APRS logistical assets. The Command Post is located at the Genius Den.

Supply - Communicator rides with Supply Coordinator and provides communications to resolve supply issues along route. Meet up is off site (pre determined with coordinator). Mobile transceiver is a must for this position.

Shadows - Shadow Communicators are mostly in the downtown area surrounding the Start/Finish line. HT's are the norm for these positions. A headset or headphones are a must as the area can be quite noisy. Shadow meet ups are at the Volunteer check in location. (See Downtown Map).

Cones - Communicator meets up with driver off site (to be determined) and provides communications regarding issues with marker cones and barricades along the route. A mobile transceiver is a must with this position.

Turtle (or Tail End Charlie) - The Turtle follows the last participant in the race. This year there are two Turtles. One for the first half (AS1 to AS9) and a second for the last half (AS13 to Finish). These communicators use their own vehicle to follow the last runner along the course. An APRS Tracker is a must as is a mobile transceiver for communications with Net Control.

Rover - A communicator that roams a particular area providing insight into situations that may occur or checking on an item requested by NCS. In some areas the Rover may provide relief breaks to Shadow Communicators. HT's are typical for this positions. A headset or headphones are a must as the area is quite noisy.

Net Control (NCS) - Communicators that are net control operators function as the communication's "Traffic Cop." All communications go through the net control. Net procedure is the same as training provided by various amateur radio ARES and RACES groups.

Observer - A communicator located at a strategic location to provide intelligence regarding race activities or interference within their observation area.

APRS Coordinator - A communicator that takes on the task of coordinating and ensuring the race course is covered for APRS reception via RF. This is a key position and takes quite a bit of extra time before the marathon to verify coverage and negotiate for locations to add Digipeaters as needed to cover the course.

SAG Coordinator - A communicator who takes the lead in planning and coordinating all aspects of the SAG operation. Negotiates with marathon staff for vehicles, staging, timing and coordinating marathon day operations. Functions as SAG Net Control during event.

Communications Group Web Page Administrator - A communicator with web implementation and management skills who volunteers their time to provide the communications team with a Web Site providing information pertinent to all communications supporting the Dallas Marathon.

Marathon Communications Committee - A small group of communicators that organize, coordinate, plan and meet with marathon staff to provide communicators with the best information available to conduct the safety and logistics functions for the runners and the volunteers participating in the Dallas Marathon.

General Info:

Some positions may be requested to take on additional tasks related to assigned position

Per HIPAA, any medical condition or name should not be transmitted over the air. Use Bib numbers.

Additional operational information is provided in the Communicator Notes section of the Communicator Info Packet.

If at all possible a mobile transceiver should be used in all cases with the exception of positions noted above.

The Dallas Marathon Amateur Radio Communications Committee