

For Immediate Release:

March 4, 2022

(Des Moines, Iowa) - On Saturday morning, March 5, 2022, marathon athlete and enthusiast [Anthony Kinley](#) will set out to run 333 miles across the states of Iowa to raise awareness for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), and to help fund the Austin Smith Inclusive Playground in his hometown of Monticello, Iowa.

Follow the Run Route:

START: Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park (4200 Avenue B, Council Bluffs, IA 51501)

Leg 1: Omaha to Atlantic (March 5) 55 miles

Leg 2: Atlantic to Earlham (March 6) 50 miles

Leg 3: Earlham to Ames (March 7) 60 miles

Meetup at Fleet Feet & Slow Down Coffee in Des Moines

Leg 4: Ames to Marshalltown (March 8) 50 miles

Leg 5: Marshalltown to Cedar Rapids (March 9) 60 miles

Leg 6: Cedar Rapids to Monticello (March 10) 40 miles

Leg 7: Monticello to Dubuque (March 11) 40 miles

FINISH: River's Edge Plaza (400 E 3rd St, Dubuque, IA 52001)

Kinley's team will share his live run tracker on his website 333forDIPG.com along with updates on Instagram @333forDIPG.

The Austin Strong Foundation is a non-profit organization that exists to raise awareness, fund research, and support those families affected by childhood cancers, like DIPG.

"The main goal of the Austin Strong Foundation is research," said Britt and Mikinzie Smith, who created the Austin Strong Foundation to honor their son, Austin Jeffrey Smith. "But, we believe part of being a successful foundation includes stewardship in our community, facilitating projects that will benefit our youth, and aligning with our mission of helping families."

On November 15th, the first concrete was poured for the playground foundation and in the spring the organization will host an official groundbreaking ceremony in Monticello.

“The ability to play is something all children should have the right to enjoy,” said Kinley, who knew Austin Smith before he lost his battle with DIPG in 2016 at the age of seven.

“He was going through more than I could ever imagine. He needed help with many simple things during his treatment that any other child would not think about, like using his own playground set in his backyard. One day while playing with him on the playground, I noticed how he was still a kid at heart and wanted nothing more than to be able to go down the slide again and again and again. The pure joy he got from the simplest acts of life has stuck with me ever since then. Austin truly was a superhero.”

Fundraising Goal Extended

Kinley hoped to raise \$5,000 to support the construction of the Austin Smith Inclusive Playground and he has already received over \$9,000 in donations through his GoFundMe campaign. His goal now is \$10,000 by the end of his run on March 11th.

Supporters can make a contribution through [Kinley's GoFundMe page](#) and on his website, 333forDIPG.com

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