

YANKEE HOMECOMING WAITER/WAITRESS RACE 2026

The goal: Make it to the finish line without spilling water or without dropping the tray altogether. Judges will be at the finish line. There is no registration fee for participants.

Race Format:

To improve race flow and finalist selection, we've updated the heat structure. Based on typical turnout ratios, we are planning three qualifying heats:

- **Two female-only heats**
- **One male-only heat**

This structure is flexible and may adjust based on actual turnout.

Each qualifying heat will focus on **speed and lack of spillage**, with servers starting at **Liberty Street at Center Street**, walking quickly to **Fair Street**, and looping back to **Center Street**. The **top three female** and **top four male** finishers from each heat will move on to the final round: the **obstacle course**.

Rules:

- The race will take place rain or shine.
- Competitors must represent a **Newburyport/Plum Island** Restaurant.
- Competitors must be over the age of 18 years.
- Attire: Each participant will wear a shirt or apron with the logo from the restaurant they are representing. They must currently be on the waitstaff.
- Use only one hand to support the tray, balancing is from underneath (not holding it)
- No changing hands once the race has started.
- **NO RUNNING**, this is a speed-walking race. Runners will be disqualified.
- Racers must walk on the street only (NOT sidewalks).
- No unsportsmanlike conduct such as body contact or interfering with the other racers.
- **All Judges decisions are final.**
- The winners agree to have their photo's used for publicity purposes by Yankee Homecoming
- Check-in starts at 3:30 p.m. and all runners must check-in at by 4:00 p.m. Check in on Liberty Street. The race starts promptly at 4:30 p.m.!

Winners

1st, 2nd place prizes will be awarded for a men's division and a women's division. Winners will be determined by the order of crossing the finish line. If there are not three dry trays within each division, then the prize winners in each division will be the contestants with the least amount of water spilled.

Cash Prizes:

1st Place Male/Female- \$450

2nd Place Male/Female- \$200

Restaurant Prize: **Best overall performance/Attitude/Spirit Trophy, to be held until the following year's race**