

Phidippides Award Available for Masters Road Runners

USA Track & Field (USATF) has announced enhancements to the [Phidippides Award program](#), a participatory recognition award for masters athletes (40+ years). The award was initiated last year in partnership with [National Masters News](#) in an effort to provide the "every day" runner with the opportunity to be recognized by USATF.

Award winners will now receive an attractive plaque (see photo: below) engraved with their name and award level (gold, silver, bronze). The awards are free to those earning enough points to qualify. The improvements to the award are made possible through a partnership with [Hasty Awards](#) (Ontario, Kan.), the official supplier of medals and awards to USATF.

The Phidippides Award recognizes individuals for their participation in road races. "USATF is proud to be able to offer this award to the running community as it is something different. Rather than simply rewarding the speed of someone's performance in a given race we are rewarding athletes for the number of times they cross the finish line in races throughout the country," states Don Lein, USATF Masters Long Distance Running Chair.

In 2008, [70 athletes](#) were recognized with Phidippides Awards. This number is expected to increase substantially with the improved award and increased awareness.

To earn points towards one of the Phidippides Awards a runner must:

- be a 2009 USATF member; and
- compete in road races that use USATF certified courses.

Athletes earn points based on their age and the number of races they finish during the 2009 calendar year.

For more information on the Phidippides Award visit www.usatf.org/groups/RoadRunning.