THE BEST OF THE REST

We went a little further to find some of the most memorable and creative medals from around the world

Disney Marathon
Orlando, Fla.
For the steep entry fee, you'd expect the medals from Disney Marathon weekend to be pretty magical. Large, heavy-duty and colourful, these highly-coveted medals feature beloved characters, proving again that nobody does it like Disney.

Oak Barrel Half-Marathon
Lynchburg, Tenn.
Finishers received wooden medals with burnt edges resembling the wood of a whiskey barrel.

Air Force Marathon
Dayton, Ohio
These esthetically pleasing medals feature a different military plane every year, making them highly collectible.

Stumpy's Marathon
Newark, Del.
Trail Dawgs' is a fun and friendly event with muddy terrain. The "medals" – a rock, with a sticker on top – certainly match the race.

Hobble Gobble Prediction Run
Potsdam, N.Y.
All finishers get a cute medal, but the real prizes are the 12 Thanksgiving turkeys awarded to the runners whose estimated finish times are closest to their actual finish times.

Runs with Scissors Half-Marathon
Brighton, Colo.
Scissors dangling from a lanyard is possibly one of the coolest medals we've seen this year.

Brazos Bend 100
Brazos Bend State Park, Texas
Held on the fastest trail in Texas trail running, the Brazos Bend ultramarathon awards finishers with a cool gator belt buckle.

ARMY RUN
When you do this half-marathon, you can't help but feel the true patriot love as you run through downtown Ottawa with more than 23,000 participants. "When Canada Army Run participants cross the finish line, a soldier places a dog-tag inspired medal around their neck, modelled after official Canadian Armed Forces' identification," says race director Major Gus Garant. "This presents a special, one-on-one opportunity for Canadians to say thanks to the men and women in uniform for all they do to keep them safe at home and abroad."

GOODLIFE TORONTO MARATHON
If size matters to you, this medal won't disappoint. You could eat a post-race meal off one of these babies. "It's a five-inch, 2 lb. piece of hardware," said race director Jay Glassman. "We get so many people who come by our expo booth and can't believe it. They say, 'that's not the finisher's medal. That's for the winners.'" When runners cross the finish line, they're tired, Glassman continues. "When we hang the medals around their necks, it almost pulls them over." He's also heard of runners who were forced to check their medals when flying home. "Security wouldn't let them into the airplane cabin; those things are so big."

BLUE NOSE MARATHON
The medal features Myles, the much-loved icon of this Halifax marathon. "Considered a unique challenge by runners, completing the Blue Nose Marathon is a significant badge," says race executive director Sherri Robbins. "This is due to the steep hills of our harbour city. The time of year, late May, also brings a good chance that runners will face daunting weather conditions. To reflect our unique running course, Myles is positioned in an uphill running stance. The elegant scroll in the background symbolizes the sea winds and waves that are an integral part of our city and our marathon."

BOXING DAY 10 MILER
This race is a tradition among runners in the Hamilton area. The snowman finisher's medal is more than adorable – it's a symbol of the hard work you did while everyone else sleeps away the morning after Christmas. "The button-nose snowman seemed appropriate for our historic winter event," says volunteer race director James Van Dyke. Female finishers under 70 minutes and male finishers under 60 minutes receive a special gold snowman.

NIAGARA FALLS INTERNATIONAL MARATHON
The Niagara Falls International Marathon's medal is a must-have souvenir of your international running journey. "The medals are a representation of the Falls," says race director Diane Chesla. "Every race finishes at Horseshoe Falls and this year we've made sure that the runners have a view of this incredible feature." R