

Is the Flying Monkey a faster race than the Labor Day 5K Classic?

This observational study will examine data from two 5K races—the Labor Day 5K Classic and the Flying Monkey—to determine which one is a faster race.

The annual Labor Day 5K Classic (LD5KC) is held every year in Washington, PA. The LD5KC advertises itself as “The Fastest 5K Race in Western PA.” Hundreds of personal records have been set on this course. The LD5KC is a point-to-point race beginning at the stone pavilion in Washington Park (elevation 1252 feet) and ending at the Pathways of the SWPA building on Jefferson Avenue (elevation 1023 feet) for a drop in elevation of 229 feet.

However, some members of the Washington County Road Runners Club (WCRRC) claim that the Flying Monkey 5K (FM5K) is a faster course. This race begins at the Crown Center parking lot in Canonsburg, PA (elevation 1236 feet), and ends at 1000 Town Center Way (elevation 961 feet) for a drop in elevation of 275 feet.

The population of this study includes all runners of the Labor Day 5K Classic or Flying Monkey 5K races. The sample will include runners who ran in either race in the year 2013. This is a representative sample of the population because it includes both competitive runners and non-competitive runners and walkers, as indicated by the race times. The observational unit is the runner, and the data to be used to compare the two races is the quantitative variable *time (sec)*.