



THE  
NORTH  
FACE



# GRAND TRAVERSE

MOUNTAIN RUN

**2018**

**COMPETITOR HANDBOOK**  
**Regulations & Guidelines**

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# CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

## **Racers Must:**

1. Have a high level of physical fitness, experience in the backcountry, and the necessary equipment to survive in strenuous to potentially life-threatening conditions.
2. Arrive to and depart from checkpoints before the established cut-off times.
3. Agree to be pulled from the race for any reason deemed necessary by Race Officials.
4. Notify Race Dispatch by phone if they decide to abandon the race while on course.
5. Not litter! It is prohibited to dispose of food wrappings, bottles, equipment, etc. - anywhere on course.
6. Not stash supplies along the course. Racers will not accept outside aid, except within 100 yards of a designated aid station.
7. Present *proof* of current **Colorado Recreational Search & Rescue** coverage, or valid Colorado fishing/hunting license. [Purchase CORSAR coverage](#)

**The race director reserves the right to delay the race start, alter the race course, and/or cancel the event as deemed necessary. Should event cancellation occur, all race registration fees are non-refundable.**

## REGISTRATION

**General Registration** - Opens December 1st

**REGISTER HERE >>>**

December-May-----30% Discount ----- \$105.00  
June-July -----20% Discount ----- \$120.00  
August -----10% Discount ----- \$135.00  
September 1st -----0% Discount -----\$150.00

**Dual Sport & Triple Crown Registration** -

**REGISTER HERE >>>**

December-February -----20% Discount ----- \$168.00  
March-May -----20% Discount ----- \$192.00  
June-August 30th -----20% Discount ----- \$216.00  
August 31st (walk-up)-----20% Discount ----- \$240.00

Individuals who will be, or have completed the 2018 GT Ski, may enter the INDIVIDUAL Triple Crown by registering as a Dual Sport competitor below.

# **Registration Refund**

If you are unable to compete, a percentage refund will be issued according to the refund schedule below.  
Registration deferments are not accepted.

**REQUEST REGISTRATION REFUND >>>**

**December 1st to May 31st – 75% Refund of Individual Registration**  
**June 1st to July 31st – 50% Refund of Individual Registration**  
**August 1st to September 1st – 25% Refund of Individual Registration**

## **EVENT SCHEDULE**

### **Friday, August 31st**

**Bib Pick-Up & Drop Bag Collection - 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

[Crested Butte Nordic Center — 620 2nd Street](#)

One compact drop bag will be transported to Aid #3 (Taylor Pass).

Drop bags must be received by 6 PM on Friday

**Pre-Race Briefing - 6:00 PM**

[Crested Butte Nordic Center — 620 2nd Street](#)

A non-mandatory pre-race briefing detailing general course conditions and advisements.

Racer questions shall be addressed at this time.

### **Saturday, September 1st**

**Bib Pick-Up & Finish Bag Collection - 5:15 AM to 5:55 AM**

[Elk Avenue, Front of Post Office](#)

Each competitor is permitted a single, compact bag to be transported to the Crested Butte finish line.

Please label your bag with the following contact information - **Name, Phone # & Bib #**

**Race Start - 6:00 AM**

**Aspen Finish Line - Noon to 6:00 PM**

[Ajax Park](#) -1001 S Ute Ave

Racers finishing throughout the day. Athletes served buffet meal and Upslope beer!

**Podium Ceremony - 2:00 PM**

[Ajax Park](#)

Top 3 Overall - Male & Female

Age Class Winners - Male & Female

# ACCOMMODATION



Discounted Lodging is available by calling the following number, or via the link below – **(855) 382-2059**

**[Crested Butte Vacations Properties Search](#)**

## **Crested Butte Camping**

Free, in-town camping is available at the **[Town Ranch Event Area](#)** (998 9th St.)

Tents may be placed in the grass anywhere behind the restrooms, aside from the softball field.

Public restrooms do NOT have showers.

## **Crested Butte Public Showers**

**[The Crested Butte Hostel](#)** has a shower facility open from 3 PM to 7:30 PM, seven days a week.

Admission fee is \$10/person. (888)412-7087

## **Parking in Crested Butte**

Overnight parking in the Town of Crested Butte is permitted on any public right-of-way, excluding Elk Avenue. Overnight parking is NOT permitted in the following parking lots - Crested Butte Visitor Center, Community School, Crested Butte Mountain Resort. We encourage you to utilize the free Town Shuttle to transport yourself between the Town of Crested Butte and the Lodge at Mountaineer Square.



Discounted lodging is available by calling the following number, or via the link below – **(877) 405-5611**

**[Aspen/Snowmass Lodging Search](#)**

## **Aspen Camping**

**[USFS Difficult Campground](#)** - 4 miles southeast on Hwy 82.

47 campsites with vault toilets, water and trash facilities. Trailers up to 40 ft. permitted. **[Reservations Required](#)**

## **[Other Camping Options](#)**

## **Parking in Aspen**

Short-term parking in downtown Aspen is available for up to 4 hours. The Rio Grande Parking Garage offers all day parking for \$15.00/day. Metered spaces are enforced Monday - Saturday from 10am to 6pm. Pay Stations are located in both the Downtown business core, as well as in some residential locations.

# TRANSPORTATION

## **Gunnison Airport Shuttle**

Crested Butte is located 30 minutes from the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport. Airport transportation can be arranged from Alpine Express at 800-822-4844 or [www.alpineexpressshuttle.com](http://www.alpineexpressshuttle.com).

## **Return Transportation**

Return shuttle service may be booked through online race registration at \$40/person.

Shuttles will depart between 5 PM - 6 PM, from the Finish Expo at Ajax Park.

*Capacity is limited - if you failed to book a shuttle seat through race registration, contact the Race Director to inquire about shuttle availability.*

## **Carpooling**

Transportation logistics for a point-to-point event can be daunting. We highly encourage our racer community to assist each other in pooling resources. You may publicize carpooling requests, in addition to other race logistic needs, by posting in the [Grand Traverse Athlete Forum \(Facebook Group\)](#).

# COURSE DETAILS

## **Course Marking**

The route is NOT continuously marked. Limited marking does not free participants from their obligation to familiarize themselves with the course route, while being diligent to keep bearings during the race. Course flagging will be placed at critical turns and intersections. Additional confidence flagging will be placed roughly at one 50 yard interval following the turn indicator.

The following marking convention will be used:

### ***Positive Direction***

- PINK & BLACK - Checkered Flagging Tape
- GREEN - Ground Flags



### ***Wrong Direction***

- RED - Flagging Tape
- RED - Ground Flags



# Course Aid

**RUN AID #1** – Juct. FS Trails 408 / 738.2A

Mile 9.4 (38°53'59.34"N 106°52'30.81"W)

**RUN AID #2 (Limited AID)** – Juct. FS Trails 400 / 405

Mile 16.5 – (38°56'58.36"N 106°48'44.01"W)

**STAR PASS (CHECKPOINT) - CUT OFF 11:15 AM**

Mile 17.5 (38°58'5.51"N 106°47'43.63"W)

**RUN AID #3 – Taylor Pass - CUT OFF 12:45 PM**

Mile 23.25 (39° 1'12.75"N 106°45'22.04"W)

**RUN AID #4 (Limited AID)**

Proximity Barnard Hut on Richmond Hill Rd.

Mile 28.8 (39° 4'43.05"N 106°46'8.26"W)

**RUN AID #5 – Aspen Mountain Boundary**

Mile 35.5 (39° 9'4.01"N 106°49'7.46"W)

**- FULL AID -**

*General nutritional support provided at  
Aid Stations - #1, #3 & #5*

Clif Bar energy products (blocks & gels)

PB&J Sandwiches

Turkey / Cream Cheese Wraps

Salty Snacks

Sweet Snacks

Fresh Fruit

Soda

Water

SWORD - electrolyte replacement drink

**- LIMITED AID -**

Water

SWORD Electrolyte Drink

Clif Bar energy products (blocks & gels)

**Cups will not be provided at aid stations**

**This is a cupless event.**

## **Taking Care of "Business" On Course**

In accordance with backcountry ethics, every participant should be prepared to responsibly dispose of their own human waste. Carry at least one packaged wet wipe towelette for sanitation. Dig a proper 6" "cat hole" to bury and cover solid waste. **Aid # 1 & # 3** will be equipped with Luggable Loo - Bucket Toilet for convenient relief.

## **Cut-Off Times**

*To ensure the safety of participants and Course Staff alike, the following cut-off times will be strictly enforced.  
Weather, or changing conditions may compel the Race Director to alter cut-off times without prior notice.*

**STAR PASS CHECKPOINT – 11:15 AM**

**TAYLOR PASS (AID #3) – 12:45 PM**

To receive a qualified finish time, racers must depart **AID #5** by **5:00 PM**.

**Racers must DEPART checkpoints at the appointed cut-off time.**

**Failure to abide by an imposed cut-off will result in immediate disqualification and will blacklist both teammates from all future Grand Traverse events.**



# Cut-Off Contingency Plan

To assist cut-off racers from being stranded without their intended return transportation, bib numbers of cut-off racers at Star Pass will be publicized on the [Grand Traverse Facebook](#) (@grandtraverse) & [Twitter](#) (@EMGTskirace) feeds.

**Racers who are unsure of their ability to pass this checkpoint should instruct their arranged transportation to monitor these feeds before departing Crested Butte for Aspen, prior to 11:15 AM on race morning.**

- Participants who do not make the **STAR PASS** cut-off will be instructed to retrace the course route back to the W. Brush Creek Trail head, where runners can meet a shuttle that will return them back to downtown Crested Butte.
- Racers cut-off at **AID #3**, will be instructed to depart the course by descending 4.75 miles down Express Creek Road to meet a shuttle at Castle Creek Rd. The shuttle will deliver cut-off participants to the finish line venue.

## Self-Withdrawal

Race officials must be notified if you choose to abandon the race.

Failure to properly exit the race could result in an unnecessary Search & Rescue mission activation.

**You MUST phone Race Dispatch if you elect to abandon the race without notifying a Course Official.**

Race Dispatch's phone number will be printed on the back of your Bike Plate.

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

[\(Link to Interactive Map\)](#)

### *Crested Butte to Star Pass*

Race start time is **6 AM** on the 200 block of **Elk Avenue in Downtown Crested Butte** (adjacent to Post Office). Departing easterly down Elk Ave, competitors will encounter dirt within .5 miles of the start when they meet the McCormic Ranch subdivision road. Racers soon join single track at Tony's Trail, where the course starts a gradual ascent leading to a R-turn connecting them with the Upper Trail (FS-435.1). This section climbing the shoulder of Mt. Crested Butte poses a technical 200' climb, followed by a 400' decent to the trail's junction with County Road 738 (L-Turn). The race will remain on this dirt surfaced road for 2.2 miles, resuming single-track at the junction with Trail 408 (R-Turn), also known as the "Canal Trail" (1st water crossing on course).

Mildly ascending for 2.3 miles racers will encounter their second wet stream crossing at Brush Creek, delivering them soon after to **AID #1** (Full Aid – Mile 9.5) The course briefly continues on a narrowly sketched single-track through the "Death Pass" escarpment. Thereafter, runners merge on to the East Brush Creek jeep road (FS 738.2B).

Racers must be vigilant to NOT diverge onto FS 738 (L-Turn) along this route, DON'T go to *Pearl Pass!*

Forest Service road 738.2B eventually becomes TR 400, further ascending to one more wet crossing over East Brush Creek, leading racers shortly thereafter to **AID #2** (Limited Aid – Mile 16.5). Departing **AID #2** racers switch back up roughly 1 mile to the top of **Star Pass** (12,336' - Mile 17.5)



## STAR PASS CHECKPOINT – 11:15 AM CUT-OFF

### *Star Pass to Aspen*

Beyond the summit a gradual single track descent connects to Taylor Pass Divide Road (FS 761.A). This primitive double track road skirts the eastern slopes of Taylor Peak, exponentially gaining altitude until attaining Taylor flats where the route continues a gentle ascent to the broad summit of **Taylor Pass** and **AID #3** (Full Aid – Mile 23.25).

### **AID #3 – 12:45 PM CUT-OFF**

Gradual climbing continues past **AID #3**, mixed with an intervening descent before once more climbing to the route's second highest elevation point at 12,306'. From here the course begins its incremental drop in elevation, joining Richmond Hill Road, leading racers onto **Aid #4** (Limited Aid – Mile 28.8). From this second-to-last aid station, racers will be subjected to a 7 mile rolling traverse over Richmond Ridge, delivering them to **Aid #5** (Full Aid – Mile 35.5) at the top of Ajax Mountain!

Racers must depart **Aid #5** by **5:00 PM** to receive a qualified finish time.

Entering the Aspen Mountain boundary, racers will embark upon a 3,200' elevation loss over 5 miles. The descent will utilize the following single track within the *Aspen Mountain trail network*: **East Rim > Power of One > Summer Road > Little Nell**. Nearing the bottom of the mountain, Little Nell trail intersects **Ajax Trail**, near the base of a prominent “trustle” gondola tower.

Look for flagging leading you to make a *hard* RIGHT TURN through a wood gate on to the *City of Aspen - Ajax Trail*. This trail will direct racers to the finish line at Ajax Park in < .25 miles.

Finish Line Expo will wrap at **6:00 PM**.

## Waypoints - Miles & Elevation Gain / Loss

( RED = Cut-Off Location )

| Mile | Altitude | Waypoint                              | + Miles | Elevation |
|------|----------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 0    | 8,907'   | Start Line- Crested Butte             | -       | -         |
| 4    | 9,455'   | Upper Upper High Point                | + 4     | + 548'    |
| 5    | 8,904'   | Brush Creek Valley Floor              | + 1     | - 551'    |
| 9.5  | 9,268'   | <b>AID #1</b>                         | + 4.5   | + 364'    |
| 16.5 | 11,588'  | <b>AID #2</b>                         | + 7     | + 2,320'  |
| 17.5 | 12,336'  | <b>Star Pass - Checkpoint</b>         | + 1     | + 748'    |
| 19   | 11,535'  | Low Point                             | + 1.5   | - 801'    |
| 23.5 | 11,930'  | <b>AID #3 - TAYLOR PASS</b>           | + 4.5   | + 395'    |
| 25   | 11,936'  | Richmond Ridge - Low Point            | +1.5    | - 331'    |
| 25.5 | 12,306'  | Richmond Ridge - High Point           | + .5    | + 370'    |
| 28.8 | 11,450'  | <b>AID #4</b>                         | + 3.3   | -         |
| 35.5 | 11,270'  | <b>AID #5 - Aspen Mountain Summit</b> | + 6.7   | -         |
| 40.5 | 8,157'   | Finish Line- Aspen Ajax Park          | + 5     | - 3,113'  |

# DROP BAGS

Competitors are permitted a single Drop Bag transported to **AID #3 at Taylor Pass** - (*Mile - 23.25*)

- **Drop Bags must be received at the bib pick-up location on Friday by 6 PM.**  
Items must be contained in a soft sided bag, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 12". No coolers or boxes please!
- **Drop bags will be further delivered to the Aspen Finish Line by 4 PM on race day.**
- **ONE Finish Line Bag** will be transported per competitor.  
Finish bags may be dropped with race staff at the start location, anytime prior to race start.

**Unclaimed bags/gear will be returned to the CRESTED BUTTE NORDIC CENTER.  
THE GRAND TRAVERSE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, STOLEN, OR  
FORGOTTEN PERSONAL ITEMS.**

# RECOMMENDED GEAR

A minimum degree of backcountry self sufficiency is expected of every athlete on course. The race will not be canceled for "uncomfortable" conditions. You must come prepared to survive in strenuous, to potentially life threatening weather conditions.

**It is strongly recommended that every participant carry at a minimum:**

- Dark Sunglasses
- Warm Hat or Buff
- Waterproof shell with hood
- Thermal under-layers
- Hydration Carrying System - **Aid stations will NOT have cups**
- Mylar emergency blanket
- Sanitary Napkin

# RESULTS

Live preliminary results will be populated throughout the duration of the event at - [www.rmtiming.co](http://www.rmtiming.co)

Official results will posted to the [Grand Traverse Results Board](#), by 5 PM on Monday.

# RACE DIVISIONS & AWARDS

**Mountain RUN Division**  
Individual Male & Female

**Dual Sport Division**  
Individual Male & Female

**Individual Triple Crown Division**  
Individual Male & Female

**Team Triple Crown Division**  
Gender Neutral

## Age Classes

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Female - 18 & Under | Male - 18 & Under |
| Female- 19 to 29    | Male- 19 to 29    |
| Female - 30 to 39   | Male - 30 to 39   |
| Female - 40 to 49   | Male - 40 to 49   |
| Female - 50 to 59   | Male - 50 to 59   |
| Female - 60+        | Male - 60+        |

Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to the **1st place Male & Female** in each of the Age Classes.

### **- Finisher Award -**

Every finisher receives a commemorative finisher pint glass

### **- Top Finishers Awards -**

#### **RUN Division**

Top 3 Overall - Male & Female will be presented metals and additional product prizes.

#### **Dual Sport Division**

Top 3 - Male & Female will be presented metals and additional product prizes.

#### **Team Triple Crown**

Top 3 - Team Finishers will be awarded product prizes.

#### **2018 Triple Crown Championship**

One Male & One Female will be crowned as 2018 Grand Traverse Triple Crown Champions.  
Commemorative championship prizes will be awarded.

(Top results for Dual Sport and Triple Crown will be determined by summing total finish times for each race leg, to arrive at the fastest cumulative finish time.)

# RACE UPDATES

Receive regular race updates by following us on the following social channels



We want to share in the totality of your GT experience!  
Share your race related documentation by tagging -  
**#CBtoAspen** on all social media.

# COMMUNITY

## Grand Traverse Athlete Forum

Utilize this valuable racer resource for anything and everything GT related!



### **IMPORTANT:**

**All information contained herein is subject to change.  
For the safety of participants and Race Staff, the Race Director reserves the right delay the start of the race, alter the course, or cancel the event.**



The Grand Traverse operates under a Special Use Permit on the  
Gunnison and White River National Forest.