



GOthic MOUNTAIN TOUR



2019 RACER MANUAL

Mandatory Equipment

Avalanche Rescue:

- Beacon
- Shovel
- Probe

Personal Protection:

- Helmet
- Neck gaiter or Balaclava
- Insulation Layers (Warm Down or Synthetic) - Jacket & Pants

Colorado Recreational Search & Rescue Card or Colorado Hunting / Fishing License

Must be presented at bib pickup.

Pre-purchase your CORSAR online prior to bib pick-up - [HERE](#)

Schedule of Events

Friday, February 22nd

[Crested Butte Nordic Center](#)

5:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. - Bib Pick-Up

If you're unable to make Friday's bib pick up, your bib will be distributed to you at the Town Ranch Start Line.

Saturday, February 23rd

[Town Ranch - Start Line](#)

5:15 a.m - Late bib pick-up

5:30 a.m. - Mandatory Check-In & Beacon Check

6:00 a.m. - **COMPETITIVE RACE START**

[Snodgrass Trailhead - Start Line](#)

8:00 a.m. - **RECREATIONAL RACE START**

Finish Party & Raffle

[The Magic Meadows Yurt](#)

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Finish Line Bag Drop

Race staff will transport one bag of post-race clothing/gear to the finish at the Magic Meadows Yurt. Please pre-label your gear bags with **Name & Phone Number**.

Gear bags will be collected from racers the morning of the race at the

[Town Ranch - Start Line](#)

Considerations:

Post race, participants will need to ski themselves approximately 1 mile from the Magic Meadows Yurt to meet shuttle transportation. Any gear sent to the finish line will need to be carried out by the participant at the conclusion of the race.

Bags which are unclaimed at the yurt will be brought back to the [Crested Butte Nordic Center](#) by 6:00 PM the day of the event.

Crested Butte Nordic is not responsible for personal property which may be lost, stolen or damaged

Parking & Shuttle

Limited parking is available at the Town Ranch Trailhead. Additional parking is available adjacent to Town Ranch in the Community School rear parking lot. Parking is also permitted and permitted on any of the adjacent residential streets.

A return shuttle is provided to transport exiting racers back to vehicles parked at the start line. Racers will be required to ski themselves approximately 1 mile, from the Magic Meadows finish utilizing the groomed Nordic trail network to meet the shuttle at the Gronk Trailhead on Peanut Lake Rd.

[Shuttle Pick-Up location - "The Gronk"](#)

Course Information

Competitive Course

23.5 Miles / 5,130 Feet Climbing

Recreational Course

17.85 Miles / 2,379 Feet Climbing

The **Recreational Course** is presented as a untimed tour option for skiers to experience this unparalleled backcountry route, coupled with vast winter vistas that exemplifies the Gothic Mountain Tour.

The Rec category starts **8:00 AM** at the [Snodgrass Trailhead](#) (5.7 miles into the Competitive Course), averting the initial climbing out of Town to the resort high point. The Rec course proceeds directly on the Gothic Road grade, subtracting another 600 feet of climbing off the competitive course.

Rec category participants must still meet the 9:00 AM Gothic Townsite Cut-Off to proceed on course.

Cut-Off's

7:45 a.m. - Top of Painter Boy Lift - Crested Butte Mountain Resort

9:00 a.m. - Gothic Townsite

Failure to respect and adhere to an enforced cut-off will result in your name being blacklisted from all future Crested Butte Nordic events, including The Grand Traverse.

Aid Stations

- **Mile 13.5** (Top of the World) - Nutrition
- **Mile 16.3** (Pittsburg Townsite) - Hydration & Nutrition
- **Magic Meadows Yurt Finish** - Cold Beer & Hot Soup

Course Marking

The ascent from the START to Crested Butte Mountain Resort will be marked with reflective tape or strobe lights, adhered to wood lathe steaks with ORANGE flagging ribbon..

Where necessary, the course will be marked with YELLOW Pin Flags bearing Grand Traverse insignia.

Descents which are prone to avalanche hazards, will be marked with ORANGE flagging tied to vertical posts and trees creating wide gates for racers to pass between. Racers must be vigilant to adhere to the designated descent route delineated by the gates.

Course Description



Crested Butte >>> Painter Boy Ridge

([Link to Interactive Map](#))

The race starts at the [Town Ranch Trailhead](#) / Crested Butte Community School.

The course set's off on groomed nordic track ([Tony's Trail](#)) towards the base of Mt Crested Butte. Here the course departs the groomed Nordic system transitioning to a climbing traverse onto a natural bench, approximating the summer "Upper Loop" singletrack trail.

At (**mile 2.2**) the course deviates RIGHT, departing the Upper Loop trail, making an ascent through aspens trees towards the ski resort boundary. Gradual climbing delivers racers to the CBMR boundary, entering the resort onto the "Banana Exit" cat track. The route continues LEFT, descending on the cat track, delivering racers to the top of **West Wall Lift**.



Racers are required to descend to the West Wall Lift base, remaining "Skiers LEFT" of the Lift towers on Lower Championship run to avert early morning alpine race training occurring on Buckley run.

From the bottom of West Wall, the race route skirts the main base area, ascending parallel to the Magic Carpet, until just before the Silver Queen Lift, racers may begin ascending Warming House Hill, continuing to Houston trail, and the base of **Painter Boy Lift**.

*** Be cautious to not be lead astray from the race route by General Public skinning the mountain recreationally ***

Racers ascend inline with Painter Boy lift towers to gain the ridge (**Mile 4**). Here a check-point will be established with a course marshal who will enforce a strict **7:45 AM CUT-OFF**.

Painter Boy Ridge >>> Gothic Townsite

After transitioning, racers will descend North Pass ski run, passing beyond the Gold Link lift base on through the Prospect Drive underpass tunnel. Follow YELLOW pin flagging directing you around the Prospect housing development, onto a cat track leading towards the CBMR Maintenance Building.

Just before the entrance to the maintenance yard, the course abruptly climbs LEFT. A strobe will be placed here with flagging directing racers uphill, further leading racers towards the Snodgrass Trailhead. (**mile 5.7**)

From Snodgrass trailhead the course climbs approximately 600 vertical feet up the standard Snodgrass skin track. Upon reaching a natural terrain bench, the race course veers RIGHT. Continue traversing the bench to where a course marshal will be stationed directing you to transition and descend down to the Gothic Road.

The descent route trends skiers LEFT down a gentle fall line through aspen forest. Look for ORANGE flagging on wood lathe steaks and/or trees.

This descent is in avalanche terrain. It is critical to adhere to the marked course as this is the safest route. Expect variable conditions, with exposed obstacles on this descent.

Upon reaching Gothic Road at the "Rosy Point" bend (**mile 6.2**), the race route continues descending northerly on the road grade, leading racers to the Gothic Townsite (**mile 9.2**).

A course marshal in Gothic will enforce a strict **9:00 AM CUT-OFF**.

Gothic Townsite >>> Magic Meadows Yurt Finish

The route continues on the road beyond the Gothic Townsite into the widening valley towards Schofield Pass. At the signed Gothic Campground the course breaks LEFT onto a steeply climbing skin track. This begins a sustained ~ 2000 foot ascent approximating the summer single track - Trail 403. The route winds through dense forest and intervening meadows until finally summiting at the "Top of the World" high point (**mile 13.6**). Course marshals will be stationed here, providing limited nutritional support.

The course immediately descends down the ridge a few hundred vertical feet to the Washington Gulch saddle, where racers will begin one final sustained climb to the Anthracite Mesa high point, roughly 400 vertical feet. A course marshal will be stationed at the top of this transition. Marshals will direct racers to the marked descent route into the Slate River drainage, approximately 1700 feet below.

This descent is in avalanche terrain. It is critical to adhere to the marked course as this is the safest route to the valley floor. Expect variable conditions, with exposed obstacles on this descent.

Approaching the valley floor prior to the Pittsburg Townsite (Mile 16.3), racers must pass through an established **Mandatory Checkpoint**. Failure to have your bib recorded at this checkpoint will result in race disqualification. Hydration and nutrition will be provided at this checkpoint.

The course proceeds south on Slate River Road for approximately 4 miles, progressing towards the Oh-Be-Joyful Campground. Beyond Oh-Be-Joyful road signage the course will divert RIGHT (west) leading you to the Gunsight Bridge crossing the Slate River. This gentle descent will be marked with pin flags. Just beyond the bridge the course connects to the groomed Crested Butte Nordic trail system (**mile 20**). This is your glide super highway to the finish!

["Mike's Mile"](#) Trail will lead you through the nordic network for 1.5 miles, passing across a handful of pin flagged trail intersections towards an abrupt powder descent that will reveal the Finish Line at the Magic Meadows Yurt!

Awards & Raffle

The following Cash Purse will be awarded to the Top 3 - Male & Female Competitive Race Finishers:

1st Place - \$500

2nd Place - \$300

3rd Place - \$200

A “**Raffle Roulette**”, consisting of product prizes, will be dispensed according to randomly assigned finisher places. All participants are eligible to win raffle prizes in accordance with their finish place. Upon completing the race, review the results board which will have raffle place winners identified.