

MONTANE[®]
**GRAND
TRAVERSE**
MOUNTAIN RUN

2024 RACER MANUAL

AUGUST 31ST, 2024



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CRESTED BUTTE
NORDIC

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

***** This is a backcountry event requiring a high degree of self-sufficiency and preparedness. *****

Rugged backcountry conditions and severe weather may be present along any part of the course. Hazards may include but are not limited to swift creek crossings, rain, hail, snow, lightning, rock fall, and/or strong winds. Course officials cannot monitor or guarantee complete safety throughout the entirety of the course. Participants must be skilled in making their own assessment of conditions and have sufficient gear and knowledge of how to manage potentially life-threatening conditions. Racers proceed at their own risk.

Racer's Must:

- Have a high level of physical fitness, backcountry competency, and possess the sufficient gear to survive in strenuous to potentially life-threatening conditions.
- Arrive to and depart from checkpoints prior to the established cut-off times.
- Agree to be pulled from the race for any reason deemed necessary by Race Officials.
- Notify Race Dispatch by phone if a decision to self-withdraw or abandon the race is made without informing race staff on the course.
- Not litter! It is prohibited to dispose of food wrapping, bottles, equipment, etc., on the course.
- Not stash supplies along the course. Racers will not accept outside aid except within 100 yards of a designated aid station.
- **Carry REQUIRED GEAR:**
 - Waterproof Shell with Hood
 - Gloves
 - Warm Hat or Buff
- Provide proof of current [Colorado Recreation Search and Rescue \(CORSAR\)](#) coverage or a valid [Colorado Fishing and Hunting License](#)

RACE DIVISIONS

Mountain Run Division
Individual Female and Male

Individual Dual Sport Division
Individual Female and Male

AGE CLASSES

Female	Male
18 + under	18 + under
19-29	19-29
30-39	30-39
40-49	40-49
50-59	50-59
60+	60+



Triple Crown
Individual Male and Female

***** Final 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. *****



REGISTRATION REFUND

A 50% refund will be offered until June 28, 2024. Absolutely no refunds will be offered after that day for any reason. We will operate a traditional waitlist through Race Roster this year to fill spots as they open up.

If you opted in for the Racer Protection, you must contact them for a refund. [Click here](#) to file a claim.

There will be no deferments or transfers - [Refund Policy](#)

EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, August 30, 2024

Bib Pick-Up and Taylor Pass Drop Bag Collection - 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

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

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

****DROP BAGS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 6:00 PM****

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 will be addressed at this time.

Saturday, August 31, 2024

Late Bib Pick-Up and Finish Line Bag Collection - 5:15 AM

[Crested Butte Mountain Resort - 32 Emmons Road, Mt. Crested Butte](#)

****ONE COMPACT WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO THE AJAX PARK FINISH LINE****

EVENT DETAILS CONTINUED...

Saturday, August 31, 2024

Race Start- 6am

[Crested Butte Mountain Resort- 32 Emmons Road, Mt. Crested Butte](#)

Aspen Finish Line Expo - Noon to 6:00 PM

[Ajax Park - 1001 S. Ute Avenue](#)

Racers finish throughout the day. Athletes are served a complimentary meal and beer.

Podium Ceremony ~ 2:00 PM

[Ajax Park - 1001 S. Ute Avenue](#)

Top 5 Overall - Female and Male

Age Class Winners - Female and Male



2023 PRE-RACE BLESSING

By: Ben Theyrl

My name is Ben Theyerl, and I am neither a pastor nor a priest...but I am a ski coach at Crested Butte Nordic, and I remember what an old coach once taught me; "It's better to go skiing in the woods and think of God, than go to church and think of skiing."

So here in the early morning hour, it seems that everyone has gathered 'round for lauds'. There's nothing much left to do, I guess, than sign a few hymns.

We come to the mountains because they cannot come to us. And so here we are, up here, ready to worship, not a name, but a presence.

To be in a place where the Earth itself lets on that even it has a past, that even it knows where it came from, and that even it is still vivid, still in creation.

Turns out, all it takes is some pretty simple stuff. Some granite, glaciers, aspens, pines, and a whole lot of time, and boy oh boy, just look around, something dramatic becomes rendered into a landscape. Read the scene, apropos tectonic.

It's good to be in a place where the Earth is still in creation, for what are we doing here, but still creating ourselves. To traverse a mountain is to take the raw stuff we're made of; who we are and where we come from; the friends, family, and spirit that got us here, and find palettes latent within ourselves. In this Grand Traverse, each new step is a celebration, each new turn one towards exaltation. As you run today, and each peak, pass, and ridge offers a wholly different sublime scene, remember you're simply running with the Earth - let the drama of it fill your soul, drop the hammer, and run these mountains with an open heart. Towards absolution, toward benediction, towards something new.



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ACCOMMODATIONS

Crested Butte

[Mount Crested Butte Lodging](#) (877-547-5143)

[Crested Butte Camping](#)

North Village Campground: Free camping is available within this Mt. Crested Butte municipal campground. Tents may be pitched on a first come, first served basis at any of the 22 established tent platforms. Port-a-potty restrooms are present on site.

[Vehicular Camping at Crested Butte Mountain Resort Parking Lot](#): Friday through Monday evening. You must obtain a parking pass at registration and pay a \$20 fee. Port-a-potty restrooms will be present on site.

Aspen/Snowmass

[Aspen/Snowmass Lodging](#) (800-739-0842)

[Aspen Area Camping](#)

Public Showers

[Aspen Recreation Center](#)

0861 Maroon Creek Rd., Aspen, CO

[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/day.

Metered spaces are enforced Monday - Saturday from 10am to 6pm.

Pay Stations are located in the downtown business core and some residential areas.

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 Shuttle](#).

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 logistics help wanted, by posting in the [Grand Traverse Athlete Forum](#).

Bike Transport

We are currently looking for shuttle options for dual sport athletes.

Return Transportation

Return shuttle service may be [booked through online race registration](#) at \$80/person. The shuttle will depart from the Finish Expo at Ajax Park. There will be 1 shuttle departing at 6pm.

Vehicle Shuttle Service

Arrange your private vehicle shuttled to a destination with [Maroon Bells Shuttles](#).



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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. You must remain diligent to keep your 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 conventions will be used:

Positive Direction:

PINK - Flagging Tape

YELLOW/PINK - Ground Flags



Wrong Direction:

RED - Flagging Tape

RED - Ground Flags



We thank [Central Colorado Mountain Riders](#) and the [GOATS](#) for their volunteer course marking support!



AID STATIONS

Cups will NOT be provided at Aid Stations

Full Aid

Water, electrolyte, gels, salty and sweet snacks, fresh fruit, soda

Limited Aid

Water, electrolyte, gels

RUN AID #1 - FULL AID

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

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

RUN AID #3 - FULL AID

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

RUN AID #4 - LIMITED AID

Approximately Mile 29 (39° 4'43.05"N 106°46'8.26"W)

RUN AID # 5 - FULL AID

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

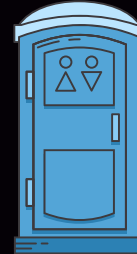


TAKING CARE OF "BUSINESS" ON COURSE

In accordance with backcountry ethics, every participant should be prepared to responsibly dispose of their personal human waste.

- Carry a packaged wet wipe towelette for sanitation.
- Dig a proper 6 inch deep "cat hole" to bury and cover solid waste.
- Aid #1 & #3 will be equipped with a Bucket Toilet for more convenient relief.

PACT Outdoors will be providing additional waste disposal tools at aid stations.



SUPPORT CREW INFO

***** We discourage crewing on course.*****

Nearly all Aid Station locations require high clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicles to access. Aid #3 at Taylor Pass is particularly prone to vehicular congestion with limited parking capacity. Pacers are not permitted on course.



CUT-OFF TIMES

To ensure the safety of participants and Course Staff, 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.

Death Pass Mile 9.4 - **CUT OFF 8:45 AM**

Taylor Pass Mile 23.25 - **CUT OFF 1:00 PM**

Top of Aspen Mountain 35.5 - **CUT OFF 4:40 PM** (for a qualifying finish time)

You Must Maintain a Minimum Pace of 18 Minutes Per Mile to meet cut off times. 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 athletes from all future Grand Traverse events.

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 front of your race bib.



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CUT-OFF CONTINGENCY PLANS

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 [Grand Traverse Facebook](#) (@grandtraverse)

Participants who do not make the **Death Pass - Aid #1** cut-off will be instructed to retrace the course route back to the Tent City Campground, where runners can meet a shuttle that will return them to downtown Crested Butte.

Racers cut-off at **Taylor Pass - 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 expo at Ajax Park in Aspen.

* Racers unsure of their ability to continue beyond Death Pass cut-off should instruct their arranged transportation to monitor GT Social Media feeds until 10 AM. *



CRESTED BUTTE TO ASPEN- DROP SHUTTLE

Runners cut-off at Death Pass (Aid #1), or who have self-withdrawn, may acquire a complimentary drop shuttle over to Aspen.

The shuttle will leave from Crested Butte Nordic Center, 620 2nd Street at 1:30 PM.

ROUTE STATS AND DESCRIPTION

Run- Miles + Elevation Gain / Loss (**RED**= Cut-off Location)

Mile	Altitude	Waypoint	+ Miles	+/- Elevation
0	9,395'	Crested Butte Mountain Resort	-	-
4	9,455'	Upper Upper High Point	+ 4	+60'
5	8,904'	Brush Creek Valley Floor	+ 1	- 551'
9.5	9,268'	AID #1- DEATH PASS	+ 4.5	+ 364'
16.5	11,588'	AID #2	+ 7	+ 2,320'
17.5	12,336'	Star Pass - Checkpoint	+ 1	+ 748'
19	11,535'	Low Point	+ 1.5	- 801'
23.5	11,930'	AID #3 - TAYLOR PASS	+ 4.5	+ 395'
25	11,936'	Richmond Ridge - Low Point	+1.5	- 331'
25.5	12,306'	Richmond Ridge - High Point	+ .5	+ 370'
29.2	11,349'	AID #4	+ 3.3	-957'
35.5	11,270'	AID #5 - Aspen Mountain Summit	+ 6.7	-79'
40.5	8,157'	Finish Line- Aspen Ajax Park	+ 5	- 3,113'

MT. CRESTED BUTTE TO STAR PASS

Race start time is 6:00 AM in the Parking Lot of Crested Butte Mountain Resort at 32 Emmons Rd. Departing southerly down Emmons Rd., competitors will navigate through the resort Base Area to meet with Lower Westside trail singletrack. Racers ascend this trail for .25 miles where they'll turn RIGHT onto the San Moritz Trail. This trail delivers racers to the San Moritz Condo parking lot where racers will proceed on pavement for .25 mile, leading to a LEFT turn onto the Upper Loop Trail (FS-435). This section traverses the flanks of Mt. Crested Butte, eventually posing a technical 200' climb, followed by a 400' descent to the trail's junction with County Road 738 (Brush Creek Rd.). The race will remain on this dirt-surfaced road for 2.2 miles, resuming singletrack with a RIGHT turn onto Trail 408 ("Canal Trail"). Water may be present in the canal necessitating a wet-foot crossing. The course mildly ascends for 2.3 miles, which delivers racers to the wet stream crossing at Brush Creek, and very 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.

*** Death Pass Mile 9.5 - **8:45 AM CUTOFF** ***

DEATH PASS TO STAR PASS CHECKPOINT

Thereafter, runners merge onto the East Brush Creek jeep road (FS738.2B). Racers must be vigilant to NOT diverge onto FS 738 (L-Turn) along this route, DO NOT go to Pearl Pass! Forest Service road 738.2B eventually becomes Trail 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 switchback up roughly 1 mile to the top of Star Pass (12,336' - Mile 17.5)

STAR PASS CHECKPOINT TO TAYLOR PASS AID STATION

Beyond the summit a gradual singletrack 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 23.5).

*** Aid #3 - 1:00 PM CUT-OFF ***

TAYLOR PASS AID STATION TO ASPEN MOUNTAIN SUMMIT

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 an incremental drop in elevation, joining Richmond Hill Road, leading racers onto Aid #4 (Limited Aid – Mile 29.2). From this second-to-last aid station, racers will be subjected to a 7 mile rolling high traverse on Richmond Ridge, delivering them to Aid #5 (Full Aid – Mile 35.5) at the top of Aspen Mountain!

*** Aid #5 - 4:40 PM CUT-OFF for a qualifying finish time ***



ASPEN MOUNTAIN SUMMIT TO FINISH LINE

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. Approaching the base of the mountain, near a prominent gondola tower, Little Nell trail intersects Ajax Trail (City of Aspen Trails). Look for flagging leading you to make a hard RIGHT TURN, proceeding through the wood fence access point onto the Ajax Trail. This trail leads directly to the finish line at Ajax Park in < .25 miles.

*** The Finish Line Expo will wrap at 6:30 PM. ***



Interactive Map

CLICK HERE

COURSE SWEEP

Every portion of the course is cleared by a back-of-pack sweep team. If you incur an injury that renders you immobile, rest assured, if you remain on the course you will be encountered by the Course Sweep, who are equipped to provide emergency assistance.



DROP AND FINISH BAGS

Taylor Pass Drop Bag

ONE small drop bag (drawstring bag size) will be transported to AID #3 at Taylor Pass
(Mile - 23.5)

Bags MUST be received at Crested Butte Nordic Center on FRIDAY by 6:00 PM.

Label bags with the following contact information - Name / Phone Number / Bib #

This is for essential items: change of socks, ibuprofen, prescription medicines, etc.

Drop bags will be transported to the Ajax Park - Finish Line by 5:00 PM on race day.

Finish Line Bags

A single gear bag will be transported per competitor to the Ajax Park finish line. Finish-line bags must be under 20 lbs. and no bigger than an airline carry-on.

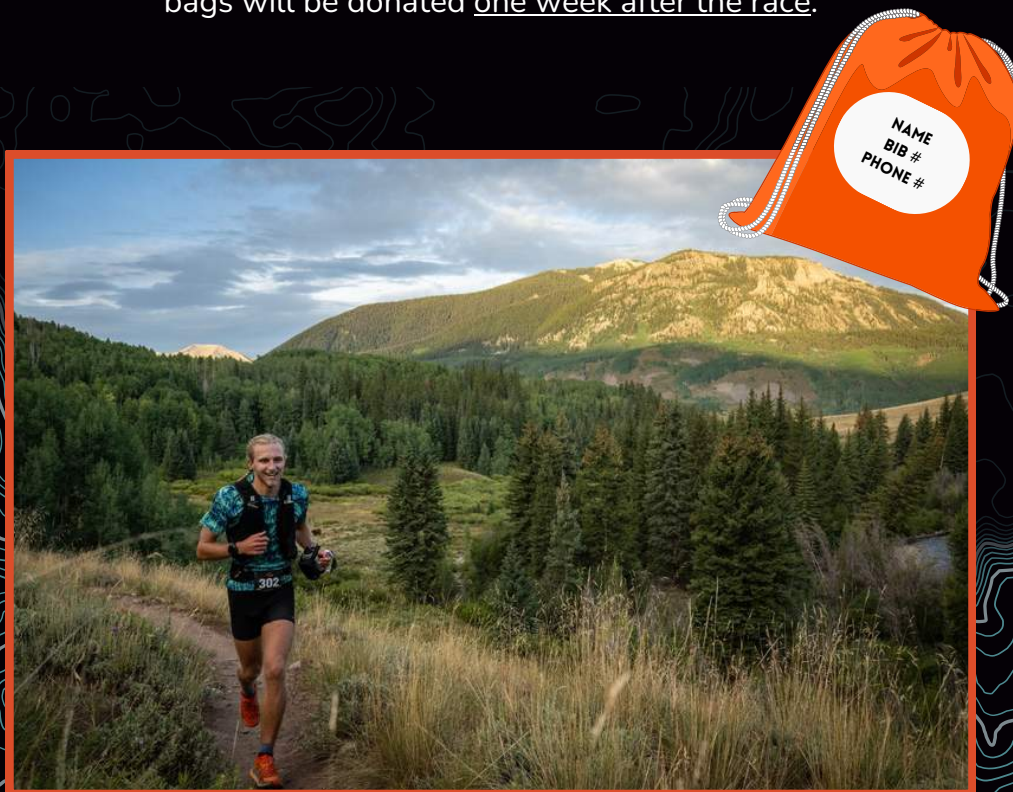
Finish bags will be collected by Race Staff at the START LINE prior to the race start.

Label bags with the following contact information - Name / Phone Number / Bib #

Unclaimed bags/gear will be returned to: Crested Butte Nordic Center on Tuesday,
September 5th.

THE GRAND TRAVERSE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, STOLEN, OR ABANDONED
PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Please contact Crested Butte Nordic, events@cbnordic.org to claim your bag. Unclaimed
bags will be donated one week after the race.



REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED GEAR

A minimum degree of backcountry self-sufficiency is expected of every athlete on course. You must be prepared to survive in strenuous to potentially life-threatening weather conditions.

Required weather protection gear:

Waterproof Shell with Hood
Gloves
Warm Hat or Buff

Recommended additional gear:

Hydration Carrying System
Collapsible Cup - Aid Stations will NOT have cups
Head Lamp (first 30 minutes in pre-dawn)
Dark Sunglasses
Thermal Under Layers
Mylar Emergency Blanket
Moist Towelettes

RACE UPDATES

Receive regular race updates by following us on the following social channels. We want to share in your GT experience!

Share your race by tagging - #TheGrandTraverse #GrandTraverseRun #MtCBtoAspen



ATHLETE COMMUNITY

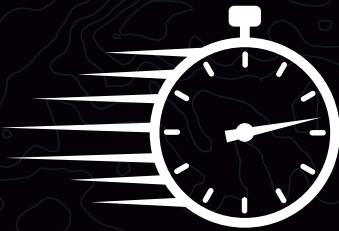
Grand Traverse Athlete Forum - Utilize this valuable community resource for anything and everything GT related!



RESULTS

Live preliminary results will be posted throughout the event at Rocky Mountain Timing – RFID Race Timing Solutions (rmtiming.co).

Official results will be posted to the Grand Traverse Results Board by 5:00 PM Tuesday.



AWARDS

Finisher Award

Every finisher will receive a commemorative finisher award.

Age Class Award

Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to the 1st place Female and Male in each Age Class.

Individual Mountain Run Division

Top 5 podium - Female and Male, cash prizes will be awarded.

- 1st Place - \$1,000
- 2nd Place - \$700
- 3rd Place - \$400
- 4th Place - \$200
- 5th Place - \$100

Individual Dual Sport Division

Top 3 podium - Female and Male, will be awarded product prize packages.

2024 Triple Crown Championship

1st Place - Female and Male, with lowest cumulative finish time across all three events will be crowned the series champions.

Triple Crown Champions will receive commemorative trophies and a cash prize of \$200.



DISCLAIMERS AND PERMITS

This event is made possible through sponsorship from The Town of Mt. Crested Butte.



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

The Grand Traverse is a fundraiser for Crested Butte Nordic a 501c3 non-profit organization.



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



BIG THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

