WELCOME

We want to welcome you to the 8th annual Black Canyon Ultras presented by ALTRA!

The Black Canyon Ultras will take place on the beautiful Black Canyon National Recreation Trail the weekend of February 13, 2021.

We are so excited to host the 2021 100K again as a Western States qualifier and Golden Ticket Race!

Please read through the following participant guide prior to race weekend to make the best of your race experience, and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions!
ORGANIZATION

The Black Canyon Ultras is organized by Aravaipa Running and permitted by the Bureau of Land Management, The State of Arizona, and Yavapai County.

Aravaipa Running is a locally owned, runner-driven organization that promotes trail and ultra running events across Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. The production of the Black Canyon Ultras each year would not be possible without the help of over 200 staff and volunteers, including local sheriffs, medical, HAM radio operators, various running clubs, teams, families, and friends, who all play a huge role in creating a premier running experience for each and every runner.

THE BASICS

RACE DATE
Saturday February 13, 2021

START TIMES
100K Start Time: 7:00am MST
60K Start Time: 9:00am MST

START LOCATION
Mayer High School
17300 E Mule Deer Dr
Mayer, AZ 86333

CUTOFF TIMES
100K Cutoff: 3:00 AM (20 Hours)
60K Cutoff: 9:00 PM (12 Hours)

FINISH LOCATIONS

100K Finish
Emery Henderson Trailhead
N New River Road
Phoenix, AZ 85087

60K Finish
Rock Springs Cafe
35900 S Old Black Canyon Hwy
Black Canyon City, AZ 85324

EXPO: ROCK SPRINGS CAFE: SPRING PATIO
35900 S Old Black Canyon Hwy
Black Canyon City, AZ 85327
623-465-9903

BIB PICKUP/EXPO

We will be hosting a Race Expo near the 100K Finish Line at the Rock Springs Cafe Spring Patio in Black Canyon City (address below) on Friday February 12, from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Runners will have the opportunity to pick up their bib, shop the Aravaipa Running and Run Steep Get High Store, and browse our sponsor booths. Sole Sports will be there with basic nutrition and last-minute race necessities.

Runners may bring their drop bags to the runner expo and deposit their bags for the appropriate aid station the day before. Please keep in mind that drop bags exceeding a reasonable size (i.e. suitcases, heavy duffles, large tubs) will not be transported to aid stations.
The 2021 Black Canyon 100K is proud to be a 2022 Western States 100 qualifier. Runners must complete the entire 100K distance under 17 hours in order to be eligible for the Western States Lottery.

Beginning with the 2015 race, they made the qualifying standards trail 100K and 100 Mile races. They have limited the number of qualifying races to the largest trail 100 milers domestically, and the largest 100Ks that are also of significant difficulty. Worldwide, they've included the largest races but also have the goal of geographic diversity so runners from anywhere in the world have an opportunity to run a qualifying race.

The top two (2) female and top two (2) male finishers in each individual race will automatically qualify for entry into the 2021 Western States 100 event.

In the case that the first, or second place participant is already in Western States (or decides to opt out), the automatic bid will slide to third place, fourth place, and subsequently down to fifth place as needed (no places below fifth will be accepted).

Runners will receive their invitation via email and have two weeks from the qualifying race to complete the registration, including paying the entry fee. There are no deferments or transfers.
RACE RULES

- This is a closed course. Runners must follow the course as marked in the direction of the race. Cutting or deviating from the course results in Disqualification. If a runner gets off course, they must retrace back to the last known marker and continue from there.
- Cutoffs are enforced based on gun time (7:00 am 100K start & 9:00 am 60K start) and all cutoffs are strictly enforced.
- Official finish time is based on gun time (7:00 am 100K start & 9:00 am 60K start).
- Buckles will be awarded based on chip time (when runner crosses the start line).
- **Please observe trail etiquette during the race.** This course sees a lot of narrow single track. Front of the pack (60K) please alert runners ahead of your intent to pass. Back of the pack (100K) be alert to runners who need to get by.
- Littering is strictly prohibited and grounds for disqualification.
- Music/Headphones are allowed during the race but we ask to keep one ear free from music buds to hear approaching runners or other trail users who need to pass. **Also: snakes.**
- Runners must be respectful of volunteers, officers, park rangers, and race staff.
- Pets are not considered pacers and may not be allowed on course with runners.
- Finish what you started: 100K runners who drop at the 60K finish may not switch distances to receive a 60K finish time. All drops receive a DNF.
NEED TO KNOW

BACK TO SCHOOL
The starting location for Black Canyon Ultras will be at Mayer High School. Runners may check in and utilize the cafeteria and gym before race start. Restrooms will be located closer to the track-please be mindful of the permanent facilities.

ROAD CROSSINGS
The Black Canyon Trail crosses back and forth with several county roads along the race course. Many times directly at aid stations, but sometimes not. We will be signing these crossings, but vehicle traffic is not required to stop. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to look both ways before safely crossing any road along the course. Please be careful, as there could be a fair bit of jeep, truck and ATV traffic.

Major crossings to be especially watchful at will be at Antelope Mesa, Hidden Treasure, Bumble Bee Ranch, Gloriana, and Table Mesa.

GATES
There are numerous gates along the course you will pass through during the race. We ask that you please close all gates behind you and keep cattle in their areas.

RESTROOMS & TRASH
Portable restrooms will be available at the start and finish line as well as most of the remote aid stations including Antelope Mesa, Hidden Treasure, Bumble Bee, Gloriana, Black Canyon City and Table Mesa. Please observe "Leave No Trace" and bury or pack out any waste along the trails. LITTERING is strictly prohibited (this includes organic waste like banana peels and toilet paper). This is grounds for disqualification.
NEED TO KNOW

RACE DAY TRACKING
Live result tracking will be made available on our main website under "Results" or at live.aravaiparunrunning.com. We will do our best to keep our live tracking active during the course of the event but please note that due to the remote nature of this course, online tracking may experience delays.

DARKNESS
Sunset is at 6:11 pm. If you plan on finishing in the 18-20 hour range, we recommend placing a flashlight or headlamp in your drop bag at Bumble Bee Ranch. If you plan on finishing in the 14-18 hour range, we recommend placing a flashlight or headlamp at the Black Canyon City Aid Station drop bag. If you plan on finishing in the 11-14 hour range, please have a light at Table Mesa. You may want to place one in multiple locations just in case.

SHOOTING RANGES
Make no mistake, this is the wild west. There are several shooting ranges located on BLM land near Bumble Bee and Table Mesa. You may hear guns firing for miles at Table Mesa--please note that while this recreational shooting may sound close, ranges are located/pointed away from the Black Canyon Trail.

WEATHER
Race morning will be cold with anticipated temperatures dipping into the 30s. We will have multiple heating sources spread throughout the starting area for runners to keep warm but please prepare to dress in warm layers before your start. If you have a jacket you do not want to take on trail, you may place it in your finish line drop bag.

Please be sure to check the weather prior to race day. It is not uncommon to see cold mornings, afternoon heat, a surprise chance of thunderstorms and/or snow during this time of year.
NEED TO KNOW

BIB CHECK

We will be checking runners in and out of each aid station. Your bib number MUST to be clearly visible pinned to the front of your person.

CREW ACCESS

An updated 2021 "Crew Manual" is on the Black Canyon website. Crewing is only allowed at these aid stations along the course:

- Bumble Bee Ranch
- Black Canyon City/60K Finish
- Table Mesa

DROP BAGS

Runners have the option to bring their drop bags to the Runner Expo on Friday, February 12 or to the start line race morning. Plan ahead and please label each bag with the aid station name, your name, and bib number. Please limit the size of your drop bag as any bag deemed unreasonably large (i.e. suitcase or large tote) will not be transported to the aid stations. Drop bag locations on course:

- Bumble Bee Ranch
- Black Canyon City/60K Finish
- Table Mesa
- Emery Henderson/100K Finish

PACERS

Only 100K runners may pick up a pacer at Black Canyon City (mile 37) or Table Mesa (mile 51). There are no shuttles for pacers to or from Table Mesa. Please plan accordingly. All pacers must sign a pacer waiver and wear a 'pacer' bib on course.

DROPS

If you decide to drop from the race you must do so at an aid station. Please inform the radio communication volunteers. They must record your bib number and that you are dropped from the race. DO NOT WALK OFF COURSE! Please tell our radio volunteers if you drop. Due to the remote nature of this race, we cannot guarantee a timely ride back to the finish line and you may have to wait until the aid station closes down if you drop at one of our more remote stations.
AID STATIONS

Nine aid stations spaced 5-9 miles apart along the course will support runners with water, electrolyte drink, sweet and salty snacks, and fruit. Some aid stations on the course will provide hot broths and soups during the late night hours of the race.

We do our best to have nutrition available to all dietary needs including gluten free and vegan options. If you have specific nutrition or hydration needs, you may supplement your aid by utilizing our three drop bag locations at Bumble Bee, Black Canyon City and Table Mesa.

MEDICAL

Our Medical Team is run by MedStart Solutions. We will again have medical personnel at Bumble Bee, Black Canyon City, Table Mesa and the Finish.

If you encounter an emergency on the trail or any medical question, please call the phone number printed on your bib: 480-269-4126.

Please call this number instead of 911 for emergencies during the event. This number is a dedicated line for the Black Canyon Ultras and is a direct contact for our medical staff in the field. Please program this number (480-269-4126) into your phone before race day.

COMMUNICATIONS

Maricopa County Emergency Communications Group provides race day communications as part of their commitment to serve public events.

MCECG is focused on the safety of event staff, volunteers, participants, and the general public. MCECG volunteers assist in multiple events for Aravaipa Running throughout the year and are committed to seeing the safe passage of every runner on course. Through the use of HAM radio these men and women communicate to our operations every detail, need, and emergency during the race. We thank them for their continued service and dedication to the community and to the Black Canyon Ultras.
 COURSE

The first three miles of the route is a combination of paved and dirt roads leading out of Spring Valley. Runners will then quickly connect to the Black Canyon Trail single track just off Antelope Creek Road where you will remain on the BCT for the duration of the race.

The trail frequently switches between single track trail and jeep road, so keep an eye on these junction points. The trail generally heads south, but winds back and forth quite a bit. Please take care to follow the course markings as described below. There is a 0.9 mile out and back section going to the Black Canyon City aid station. You will be taking a left to head down to the aid station, turn around and then stay left again to continue southbound on the Black Canyon Trail. There are a few creek crossings on the route, the biggest being at Mile 34.

Depending on rainfall, the crossings may or may not have water in these areas. We’ve marked a route around to the right where you can rock hop across without getting your shoes wet if needed. For some runners, if you do find water along the course you may want to take a dip to cool off or at least wet your hat, shirt, bandana or head wrap. Keeping wet is the best way to avoid heat illness in the desert.

Do not let the elevation profile mislead you. The first 20 miles of this course is fun fast and downhill--many runners make the mistake of going out too fast and the rest of their race suffers. Save something for the final stretch after Black Canyon City. 100K runners will find the majority of climbing, steep descents, and rocky technical terrain in the final miles of the course! It's harder than you think!

 COURSE MARKINGS

The trail will be marked with orange ribbon with black polka-dots and orange pin flags.

Wrong ways will be marked with blue and white checkered ribbon.

We have dusted parts of the course with flour arrows on the ground and permanent Black Canyon trail signs will also guide your course. Laminated signs will also indicate major junctions or turns along the course.

There are two checkpoints during the race that will divert from the Black Canyon Trail. Please take care to follow the course markings at these checkpoints. The first will be at Bumble Bee Ranch. Runners will leave the Black Canyon Trail to enter the Aid Station at Bumble Bee Ranch and will reconnect with the trail through the ranch. **There is also an out and back portion of the trail at Black Canyon City aid station; 100K runners, do not skip this out and back checkpoint.** Maps of these two checkpoints are posted in this guide.
RACE STRATEGY

This is a net downhill course but it is anything but flat and easy especially in the second half of the race. Due to the fact that the first half of the race is relatively flat and downhill, it will be easy to go out too fast. Keep in mind that between miles 28 and 45 you will be crossing back and forth across the Black Canyon numerous times. Even after that, there are still some major climbs and technical downhill in the route. It is recommended to take it easy the first half of the race as the second half is significantly more challenging.

Download full GPX files on our website.
SHUTTLES (START)

100K
Many of you are taking advantage of our shuttle. If you are signed up for the shuttle, you will need to be at the NW corner of the Outlets at Anthem parking lot by 5:00am to board the buses. It will be a yellow school bus from Deer Valley Unified School District. The bus will depart the mall promptly at 5:30am and head up to the start at Mayer High School. If you miss the shuttle, you will need to drive up to the start yourself. There are no shuttles returning to Mayer High School from the finish line at Emery Henderson. Please plan accordingly.
60K
The 60K shuttle will start loading at 7:00 am in the event parking lot near Rock Springs Cafe at the Black Canyon City AS/Finish. Please park in the designated area highlighted in the site map below. Shuttles will pick up in the event parking lot, not at the cafe.
NO PARKING will be available at the 100K finish line at Emery Henderson or on New River Road. Shuttles are provided to all crew, spectators and runners. All crew and spectators wishing to attend the event at 100K finish line must park at the Anthem Outlet Mall in the event designated parking area to board the buses traveling to Emery Henderson. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. Any crew found parking in the Emery Henderson Parking Lot or on the road on race day risks the disqualification of their runner, parking tickets, and towing.

Shuttles are FREE for all crew and will operate for the duration of the event starting at 1:00 pm. We encourage all 100K runners without crew to shuttle to the start and leave a vehicle at the Anthem Outlet Mall for convenience as there will be no shuttles returning to Mayer after the race. All 60K runners please park at Rock Springs Cafe in the morning and take the shuttle bus to the start at Mayer High School. Once you finish, you will be at your car.

Shuttle Schedule:
Anthem >> Emery Henderson >> Anthem : 1PM - 3AM
Anthem >> Emery Henderson >> Black Canyon City >> Anthem: 6PM - 12AM (Pacer Shuttle)
Freak Brothers Pizza will be on site at both the 60K and 100K finish line cooking made-to-order wood-fired pizzas! Fresh ingredients, 100% organic, and full of high-vibe freaky goodness, enjoy a delicious freshly made pizza after your race! Be sure to let your crew know the freaks are at Black Canyon!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

ABOUT THE BLACK CANYON TRAIL COALITION

The Black Canyon Trail Coalition was organized to promote and facilitate the creation and use of the Black Canyon Trail system.

The purpose is to enhance the quality of life for trail users by providing a world-class trail experience in a natural desert mountain setting.

The Coalition of equestrian, mountain bicycling, hiking and off-highway vehicle organizations works in cooperation with government agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service to accomplish this mission.

The Coalition is an Arizona non-profit corporation with Federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Contributions to the Coalition are deductible from your Federal income tax return. Since the Coalition is an all-volunteer organization with no overhead expenses, 100% of all contributions are used for the construction, maintenance and promotion of the Black Canyon Trail system.

Please help us continue our work on this trail system by volunteering your time to help with construction and maintenance, or by sending your check or money order to: The Black Canyon Trail Coalition, P.O. Box 315, Black Canyon City, Arizona 85324. You will receive a tax deductible receipt.

This year we offer runners an opportunity to give back to the Black Canyon Trail Coalition, the organization dedicated to the growth, maintenance, and promotion of the Black Canyon Trail system.

Our hope is to continue to support the BCTC in their amazing efforts through trail work and annual contributions from the very runners who love, run, and enjoy the Black Canyon Trail.

100% of the proceeds from a "Charity 100K" registration goes directly to the BCTC and contributing supporters are assigned a bib numbered 2-10 in recognition of their support.

Thank you to all those who support The Black Canyon Trail Coalition.
SEE YOU ALL ON THE BLACK CANYON TRAIL

QUESTIONS? EMAIL JUBILEE@ARAVAIPARUNNING.COM