

We're a month out from the Whistle Pig
Aug 10, 2023

Thank you so much for registering for the Whistle Pig Adventure Race. We are super excited to bring this race format to you in our second year!

As race weekend approaches, we will be sending out racer updates, each with very important information for your race planning. Please check in with your teammates and make sure they are all getting these emails and that they aren't ending up in junk mail folders. Much of this information can be found on our website, specifically on our Race Details page and our Gear List page, both of which we update periodically so please check them often.

Below are some important details, as well as some great deals for you racers from our sponsors.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT ADVENTURE RACING

Adventure racing requires a lot of planning and logistics, but it is SO totally worth it! You've already tackled one of the biggest hurdles—finding a team and getting signed up!

Part of the fun of AR is the unknown...no marked course, no idea of where we might be sending you, no idea of what kind of terrain you might be in, etc. But this can also feel overwhelming when you're new and not used to this kind of racing! Keep in mind that everyone has the same amount of information and is in the same boat. As race directors, we will give you more and more information as the race approaches, and many of your questions will be answered over time. That said, don't be afraid to reach out to us with questions!

REGISTRATION

Please check in with your teammates and make sure everyone has signed up. BTW - We love the team names!

The last day to register is Sept 4 (but it's very helpful if you get it done before that, if possible). It's also super helpful if we know of any team changes or cancellations as early as possible. So, if you have any changes or even if you just anticipate a change, we'd love it if you could please let us know ASAP. :)

GEAR

After some thought (dangerous), conversations, and the like, we have decided you are all adults (except for the kids, of course, but they are working with adults here) and you can decide what you need to bring on a 6 hour adventure race so that you don't end up needing to call SAR or even worse, your friends, to bail you out. So we have pared the required gear list down. The required gear is required. Most of this is required by the forest service and/or our insurance (and common sense). The other stuff is up to you.

And don't worry if you do find yourself needing to call SAR, we have them on standby and on speed dial so they can be here in a jiffy. Check the [webpage](#) for the most up to date list

Please note that a writing implement (we suggest a pencil) and a UTM grid reader are on your mandatory gear list, one per team. You will need these when you check in, not out on the course. Most of your checkpoints will already be marked on your map, but you may need to plot some. [Here's a short video showing you how.](#) We will have the UTM grid readers for you at check in.

I'M A LITTLE RUSTY AT NAVIGATING

There will be a short course on navigation and plotting of checkpoints the night of registration so don't sweat the orienteering portion of the race. Or you can have a look at this [article](#) and/or this [article](#) or search the internet for instruction. Save your sweat for the biking! Stay tuned for more details on our in person session.

BIKING

We encourage a mountain bike for this race. Road bikes won't cut it. You could possibly do it on a cross bike if you are comfortable riding on single track. E-bikes aren't allowed.

SPECIAL MYSTERY CHECKPOINTS

We do have some fun mystery activities that you will learn more about when you get your maps. These will be optional, but should be doable for everyone and any special gear will be provided.

BEAR SPRAY

The race is 100% in bear country which is why bear spray is a required item on the gear list. Make sure you know how to use it. Last year, we had a bear and cub in one of our checkpoint trees! Crazy! Check out this [video](#) for a refresher.

TEAM WORK

Team communication starts now. Who will be the lead navigator and what is their experience level? Who is keeping track of time? Who is in charge of logistics? What is your strongest and weakest discipline as a team? What is your plan as a team if you get lost? Is everyone on the same page as far as goals and expectations of each other? What kind of training is everyone doing?

SUPPORT

You'll need to be pretty self sufficient during this race and we ask that you pack everything in and out. We'll have some snacks and water at transition areas and a port-a-potty at the race start/finish. We will not have cups - you will need your own water carrying device (water bottle, hydration pack, etc). Friends and family can cheer you on from the start/finish and transition areas but they won't be able to help you out. You will be able to stash gear & supplies at the start/finish but you need to carry the required items with you at all times.

CHECK IN

Check in will be the night of Sept 8 from 4-8pm at Natali's Front Bar Patio 117 S Broadway. Maps will be given out at that time.

AWARDS

We will be doing awards and a post race drawing at the start/finish area right after the race is over (plus a little time for us to tally results). We will have a few snacks at the finish area - including our favorite Whistle Pickles - and plan to wrap up as soon as we can so we can all take part in Oktoberfest!

OKTOBERFEST

After the race is over and awards have been handed out, we are all going to head down to Red Lodge Ales for one of Red Lodge's most popular events, OKTOBERFEST! Entry into OFest is included in your race registration (a \$10 value)! It's a family friendly event and is also a fundraiser for BRTA and combines live music and dancing, German style food, plenty of beer and non-alcoholic beverages and the OKTOBERFEST Olympics for a little end of summer fun! Bring your lederhosen and dirndls!

CAMPING

There is plenty of camping in the Red Lodge area both private campgrounds and National Forest locations. Some areas in the Beartooth Ranger District require hard sided campers so check their [website](#) for the most up to date information.

GEAR

Sylvan Peak - Need some last minute gear for the race? For all of your outdoor needs, stop by Sylvan Peak. After 32 years in business, they know the ins and outs of providing quality outdoor gear and clothing. They are right on Broadway and open from 7am-7pm And always have friendly, knowledgeable staff.

What is BRTA

The [Beartooth Recreational Trails Association](#) (BRTA) was organized in 2002 to:

- 1) continue operations of the Red Lodge Nordic Center (RLNC);
- 2) promote non-motorized trails in Red Lodge and along the Beartooth Front.

We work with the Forest Service, the City of Red Lodge, Carbon County, private landowners and other organizations to create and maintain trails - many of which were damaged during recent flooding.

Entirely volunteer run, all proceeds from the Whistle Pig go to help support this vital organization.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE SERIES

The Whistle Pig is part of the Rocky Mountain Adventure Series, which is an awesome collection of adventure races in the region. Race three or more RMAS races and your team could be eligible for a great cash prize!

For more info and to view the race calendar, [click here](#).

OTHER EVENTS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

There is still time to sign up for these Red Lodge Area Events

[The Nitty Gritty Off Road Race](#) - August 19 - This off-road marathon will be held at Red Lodge Mountain Resort. In its seventh year running, the Nitty Gritty is starting to earn quite the reputation. And that is, that it's, one nitty, gritty marathon with LOTS of climbing all on dirt roads and single track trails. The Nitty Gritty embodies our motto the most out of any race: low key, high elevation. While the terrain is challenging, everything else is lowkey and there is distance for all abilities. Dogs are welcome to run with you on or off leash, the beer and snacks might be the biggest draw....second only to the awesome people! Small but mighty, this race is for those who love trail running and everything that comes with it! Bring your bear spray, camp chair, and good attitude.

[Big Sky Gravel Ride](#) Aug 26 - 22, 42 and 95 Mile Courses! 95 Mile is race only. 22 & 42 mile can be ridden as tour, e-bike or race. All distances include climbing Hwy 78 out of Red Lodge to Dry Creek. Our 95 mile route includes over 6,000 feet of elevation gain and is 80% gravel. The 42 mile route is 85% gravel with the 22 mile 68% gravel.

Please keep an eye on your inbox and on the website for future updates! In the meantime, feel free to reach out with questions anytime.