

18th Annual Mount Cheaha 50K

“The Race to The Top of Alabama”

Race Instructions

Welcome to the 18th Annual Mount Cheaha 50K!!! Are you Tough enough? This is truly a beautiful course with everything a trail junkie could ask for in an Ultra Marathon. I'm sure you all will have a great day! Race day start is Saturday, February 25th, 2023 at 7:30 a.m. (CST).

➤ Packet Pick up:

Friday, February 24th, Coldwater Brewpub downtown Anniston from 3:00 - 7:00pm on Friday, February 24th.

A special gift will be given to everyone who picks up their bib on Friday.

They have amazing food and would be a great option for your prerace meal!!! 😊

Packet Pick up will also be race morning starting at 6:30 - 7:15am

Saturday, February 25th, Race Start from approx. 6:30a.m. till 7:15a.m. CST.

➤ Bus Transportation and Race Finish Parking:

Enter through the main state park gate. Continue straight until you see parking attendants. They will direct you where to park in the event parking area. This area is different from the finish line area. Do NOT drive up to towers, continue straight after going through gate until you see parking attendant.

Parking is available at the Country store on left just as you enter the park and before entering the gate. From there you will need to walk up to left side of hotel to board buses.

➤ **Runner Check In:**

Runners must check in no later than 7:15 a.m. CST, Saturday morning at the Porters Gap Trail Head off Hwy 77E (Race Start Area). Check-in is required.

Packet pick up will be available during this time as well.

You must also sign the Cheaha St Pk wavier this year. This can be done Saturday morning if you don't pick up Friday.

➤ **Parking at Race Start:**

Parking is very limited at the race start. The Talladega County Sheriff's Department will be patrolling the west bound and east bound lanes of Hwy 77 for your protection. For those of you who are having someone bring you to the race start you may have to park on the side of the highway near the Porters Gap Trailhead. You must remove your car as soon as the race begins at 7:30 a.m. (CST). Due to the small area at the Porters Gap Trailhead we will be utilizing most of this area for pre-race activities.

➤ **Race Start Time:**

Saturday, February 25th, 2023. 7:30a.m. (CST)

➤ **Hydration:**

It is recommended that you carry at least one water bottle. GU Hydration and Water along with GU Energy Gels and other food items such as bananas, PB&J, m&m's, oranges, cookies and others will be available on the course. You should pre-fill your water bottles before arriving at the race start.

➤ **Race Numbers:**

Number must be worn on your front side and visible at all the aid stations for check in. The volunteers must record your number. This is very important for runner safety and accurate head count. An RFID chip will be applied to the back of your race bib#. Do NOT bend the RFID Chip.

➤ **Medical:**

If you must drop out or are unable to continue to the race, you must notify the aid station volunteers that you are not going to continue. The volunteers will then take your race number and you will be transported back to the finish line.

➤ **Course Markings:**

The course will be marked with BLUE lawn sprinkler flags and will be placed on the Right hand side of the entire course. Big Mount Cheaha 50K signs with RED arrows will be at every turn. In addition to the flags there will be signs placed at critical turns and two out and back sections. The following is the only out and back section: 1) Adams Gap, Aid Station #3. This is a .18 of a mile from the split of the Pinhoti Trail and Skyway Loop Trail. Continue to the right on the Pinhoti Trail to aid station #3. After checking in you will go .18 of a mile and return in the direction you just came from utilizing the Pinhoti Trail to the split of the Pinhoti Trail and Skyway Loop Trail. Turn Right on the Skyway Loop Trail heading toward Lake Chinnabee. After crossing Cheaha Creek and arriving at the T of the Silent Trail. Turn RIGHT on the Silent Trail and go 3.2 miles to Aid Station #5, Silent Trail.

➤ **Clothes Bags:**

If you will be riding the shuttles from the finish to the start race morning you will need to have some type of bag to put any clothing items in that you will not be starting the race with. You will place your bag in the back of the Black Chevrolet truck. You may also drop off any extra clothing items at the aid stations. They will be brought back to the finish area (Bald Rock Lodge) after the aid station is closed for the day. You will be responsible for claiming your belongings. Everything left behind will be given to and worn by Smoky the Bear!

➤ **Notes to Family/Support**

There are detailed directions included in the Race Instructions to Race Start (Porters Gap) to Race Finish (Bald Rock Lodge). Also included in these directions are the cut off times for each Aid Station. You may stop and cheer and even help out at the aid stations as well. The aid station leaders will welcome you!!!

➤ **Aid Station and Cut Offs:**

Aid Stations Mount Cheaha 50K Mileage and Cut-offs

Aid Station	GPS Coordinates	Mileage at Station	Miles to next station	Cut-off Times/ 2nd time is the 15 min cushion	Time to Complete	Volunteer Arrival Time
START - Porters Gap	33.33348 - 85.02579	0	0	Start 7:30 am		6:30 am
Aid #1 Chandler Springs	33.32831 - 85.99141	3.34	5.15	-----	NA	7:30 am
Aid #2 Clairmont Gap	33.36077 - 85.93196	8.5	6.38	10:06 am	2hr36min	8:00 am
Aid #3 Adams Gap	33.40413 - 85.87446	14.87	4	12:05 am	4hr35min	9:00 am
Aid #4 Hubbard Creek	33.42582 - 85.86496	18.87	7	1:18 pm	5hr48min	9:30 am
Aid #5 Silent Trail	33.44970 - 85.84249	25.8	2.7	3:23 pm	7hr53min	10:00 am
Aid #6 Cheaha Lake	33.47413 - 85.82161	28.5	3.2	4:13 pm	8hr43min	10:00 am
Finish Line - Mount Cheaha	33.49191 - 85.81067	31.6		5:00 pm	9hr30min	11:00 am

NOTE: Finish Line is Redbud Pavilion NOT Bald Rock

NOTE: The section between Aid Station #4 (Hubbard Creek) and Aid Station #5 (Silent Trail) will be a little more than 7 miles. Fill your hydration bottles.