

Coulee Cactus Helpful Information

Race day: June 3rd

Start Time: High noon

Location: Elks Community Recreation Area

The race start/finish is located in Indian Battle Park at the bottom of 3rd Avenue South in the river valley of Lethbridge.

Access as follows: Head west down the hill at 3rd Ave. S and Scenic Dr. (Wendy's corner). At the bottom of the hill take the 2nd right turn into the Elks Community Recreation Area parking lot.

Please note that due to limited parking we recommend limiting the number of cars per team. Other parking lots are available at Fort Whoop-up and along Indian Battle Road. You are not allowed to park on the roadways. **It is recommended that teams car pool to the race.**

If the weather is really wet or the coulees are determined to be too muddy, a “wet weather” route (35km) will be used. This is to preserve the coulees. The decision to use this route is made by the City, not us!

General Information:

All Teams must check in at the entrance to the Elks Compound to receive their team wrist band. This wrist band will be passed between runners at each of the Transition points. It also ensures that we know what teams have actually started the race. Please arrive with enough time to check in, it gets really busy just before start time.

Solo runners must check in at the entrance to the Elks Compound so we know they are actually participating. Please arrive with enough time to check in, it gets really busy just before start time.

Due to the cross country nature of the course, water will only be available at the Transition Areas. **Cups will not be available this year so please bring water bottles along with you!** You are strongly encouraged to carry a water bottle of your own. Temperatures can reach as high as 30°C and the coulees are not known for their shade. We recommend a hat and sunscreen. The trail will be marked with small pink flags and signs. Be careful crossing the Country Club Access road on Leg 5 as there will be no one to stop traffic. The basic rule is to follow the flags and signs!!

Cautions and Rules: No cheating! No shortcutting trails. If you come upon an injured runner please help them as emergency access is very limited. Please send notification of any issues to the closest aid station via another runner and will send assistance as quickly as possible.

The post race party and awards will be at the Elks Community Recreation Picnic Shelter.

Further Information:

Contact Shawn Pinder @ Runner's Soul 327-2241 or Ralph Arnold 308-6651.

Race Results on the net: www.runnersoul.com also www.racesplitter.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
RUNNER'S SOUL TACO TIME
TATEBE OPTOMETRY (PRIZE MONEY for top solo male and female!)
THEORETICALLY BREWING
VOLUNTEERS!!!

Course Information:

The course has been changed this year so pay attention!

Relay Transfer Points:

Please note the first Transition Point is not at the College

1) Sandbox Switch Transition (leg 1 - leg 2), (leg 4 - leg 5)

Located on Scenic Heights Rd. off Scenic Drive in the small residential "Scenic Heights" neighborhood. From the river bottom return to the intersection of Scenic Drive and 3rd Ave. S. and head south (right). Follow Scenic Drive to Scenic Heights Rd. opposite 16 Ave. S.. There is a set of lights located at this particular intersection. Turn right (west). Follow this road as it curves to the south and you will see the playground on your right a short distance later. The Transfer location will be beyond the playground on the edge of the coulees. Water and port-a-potties will be available here.

2) Parking Lot I/J, Lethbridge College. (leg 2 - leg 3), (leg 3 - leg 4)

Located on the edge of the coulees at the southern edge of the Lethbridge College campus. From the river bottom return to the intersection of Scenic Drive and 3rd Ave. S and head south (right). Follow Scenic Drive to College Drive. Follow College Drive south 2 blocks and then turn left onto the campus ring road, following the eastern edge of the Lethbridge College campus. Continue around the ring road to Parking Lot I/J. Water and port-a-potties will be available here.

The former Parking Lot J (our previous Transition location) is now a huge pile of construction stuff.

3) 2 person teams will have to make it up as they see fit as the half way point is at the bottom of 6 mile coulee. As long as the course is completed we don't care how you divide it up between you.

General Trail Descriptions.

Leg 1: 6.44km 188m gain 110m loss rating: tough

From the Elks Community Recreation Area the route heads south along the paved pathway that runs beside the Oldman River, under Whoop-up Drive, across the boat launch entrance, past the water treatment plant, to the Links trail, go up the paved path on the left. Follow the signs and flags up and down and across the coulees. You will cross the Country Club road and continue almost straight up, then up and down the ridges to the **Sandbox Switch** where the first transition point is located.

Leg 2: 5.75km 229m gain 220m loss rating: maybe a little less tough

From the Sandbox follow the flags west and then south, then curving and gently climbing east to the bottom of the wooden stairs west of the Sugar Bowl. Climbing up then curving south and onto the new grey gravel path that heads west down below Tudor Estates. You cross south over a ridge to the bottom of 6 mile coulee, then proceed east and up on the north side of the creek to about ½ way up the valley, cross to the south side and continue to the final bridge located just below everyone's favorite climb up to the college. Proceed to the **Parking Lot I/J transition point** about 200 meters east along the red shale.

Leg 3: 6.84km 163m gain 163m loss rating: tough but most beautiful.

This leg contains a clockwise loop. From **Parking Lot I/J** head south on the red shale then turn east along the fence, proceed to the start of the trail that heads southwest and down into 6 mile coulee. You will reach a big plastic culvert, cross and the trail will fork, take the **left** fork (this is the start of the loop). You will take the path up, and southwest to the top of the ridge. Look to the left (south) the flags will lead you down the left side of the gully with wonderful switchbacks to cruise all the way to the river. You will then proceed downstream following the edge of the river. The trail will eventually turn east and start climbing up, up, up to the top of the ridge you were on before. The path will follow the top of the ridge briefly then turn north to drop back down into six mile coulee. It will curve east and follow the stream back to the junction where you split off on the loop by the plastic culvert. Cross the culvert and follow the flags back up to the college **Parking Lot I/J** for the next Transition.

Leg 4: 5.75km 220m gain 229m loss rating: maybe a little less tough

This leg is the reverse of leg 2, starts at **Parking Lot I/J** and ends at the **Sandbox Switch** Transition.

Leg 5: 6.44km 110m gain 188m loss rating: not as hard as Leg 1, but...

This leg is the reverse of Leg 1, starts at the **Sandbox Switch** and ends at the Finish line located at the **Elks Community Recreation Area**. You will cross the road that goes to the Country Club (there is no one to stop traffic here so it is up to you to not get hit by cars). As a perk for this leg your last climb may require you to use your hands. Once you hit the paved path along the river follow it north to the Elks Community Recreation Area and the Finish line. Detach your beer and taco tickets from your race number and help yourself to refreshments, you've earned it!