



Hells Hills

50mi / 50km / 25km / 10km



Dear Hells Hills Trail Runner,

Welcome to the annual Hells Hills Trail Run. This springtime gem offers up a pleasant surprise: a fast course, awesome aid station support, excellent shirts, unusual awards, 1st class finisher's medals, and an amazing post race celebration at the finish line. If we get lucky, the back field's full bed of bluebonnets might still be there.

It is our intention to provide the very best Texas hospitality. All our stations are staffed with experienced trail runners, as they will best understand your needs. They will provide more encouragement than sympathy. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of this event, so don't be surprised when they treat you like family. We intend to take care of you as best we can.

Our website provides more than enough information to assist you with your travel and run plans. We have spent a great deal of time to provide everything we thought was necessary and within reason. The race organization and the course have evolved since 2001. The ranch will occasionally change a trail: close one, and open another, due to erosion control or other issues. So there are always some changes. And I make other changes intentionally to improve the race. The race staff also has changes each year. We have an exceptional group working this race who are very much appreciated. If you can't run, I highly recommend you join our team. You won't be disappointed. We have quite a bit of fun just working this event: from the day we start marking the course on Wednesday until the moment we leave, early Sunday.

Please come see us or send an email. We want to know what you think. If you have any complaints, we'd like to fix it. We also want your compliments so that we can pass these on to our volunteers. They would like to know they did a good job and are quite proud of helping you succeed. You can see the entire list of all the comments on our website that we have received over the years.

Chris McWatters

RACE STAFF: Race Director is Chris McWatters. Kyle Wilkie as always does Timing. And of course... there are a few dozen others who help in so many different ways.

SPONSORS:

Tailwind, Vfuel, Saltstick, Crazy Water, Bearded Brothers, Fuel 100

We have some of the best products currently on the market at all aid stations and the start/finish area for you to use. These companies are all making huge efforts to help ultra trail runners, specifically to reach their lofty goals. I hope these help you reach yours!

CHECK-IN: Check in is now processed as you cross the start-line mat. Simply make sure you cross the mat when you start. That is your check-in.

CHECK-OUT: DNF, DROP, QUIT, LEAVE EARLY, MISSED CUTOFF: All runners who do not finish the race must turn in their timing chip to the Finish Line timer. I need to know if you have left the course. Every person who enters the course must come to the finish line. If you do not finish the race, you still must come to the finish to return your chip.

TIMELINE: everything is at the Rocky Hill Ranch (saloon)

Friday:

- 4:00-7:00pm Packet Pickup
- 4:00-4:30pm Trail Brief

Saturday:

- 4:00-7:15am Packet Pickup
- 5:00am -Start 50mi / (15hrs) cutoff / (3x) 16.7 mi loops
- 6:00am - Start 50km / (14hrs) cutoff / (2x) 15.5 mi loops
- 7:00am - Start 25km / (13hrs) cutoff / (1x) 15.5 mi loop
- 7:15am - Start 10km / (12.5hrs) cutoff / (1x) 6.2 mi loop
- 1:00pm - Start 1 mile'ish Youth Trail Run
- 3:00pm -Cutoff: Saloon Aid Stn (Nobody starts another Loop)
- 4:30pm -Cutoff: Bottleinfrontofme Aid Stn
- 6:00pm -Cutoff: Tunnel o Pines Aid Stn
- 8:00pm -Final Cutoff: Race is over

AID STATIONS:

milage splits				Aid Stations	Cut Off	accumulative miles			
50m	50k	25k	10k			50m	50k	25k	10k
loop 1									
2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	Off the Lip (H2O)		2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
4.2	2.9	2.9		Bottleinfrontofme		7.0	5.7	5.7	
5.0	5.0	5.0		Tunnel of Pines		12.0	10.8	10.8	
4.7	4.8	4.8	3.4	Saloon		16.7	15.5	15.5	6.2
loop 2									
2.8	2.8			Off The Lip (H2O)		19.5	18.3		
4.2	2.9			Bottleinfrontofme		23.7	21.2		
5.0	5.0			Tunnel of Pines		28.7	26.3		
4.7	4.8			Saloon	3:00pm	33.3	31.0		
loop 3									
2.8				Off The Lip (H2O)		36.1			
4.2				Bottleinfrontofme	4:30pm	40.3			
5.0				Tunnel of Pines	6:00pm	45.3			
4.7				Saloon	8:00pm	50.0			

- Off the Lip is WATER ONLY.
- Bottleinfrontofme & Tunnel of Pines & Saloon are full service stations.
- NOBODY starts another loop after 3:00 PM
- Race is over at 8:00 PM

CUPLESS: We will NOT provide cups for cold beverages. You must carry your own water bottles, hydration vests, etc. We WILL provide a couple community cups at each aid station if you lost your water bottle and you are desperate and gross enough to use that.

At hot events, we WILL provide Styrofoam cups or bowls and plastic spoons for hot items. We WILL also place some small food items in small serving paper dishes for sanitary reasons. You are required to stay at the Aid Station with all paper and Styrofoam items. No one may enter back onto the trails while still holding that trash. Anyone caught with items on the trail and/or littering will be automatically DQ'ed, and not allowed to return for a future event.

YOUTH TRAIL RUN: We will have a kid's one-mile race on Saturday starting at the Saloon. Check the Itinerary link on the website for the start time. It's usually early afternoon though. Register just before the race starts. You'll see the big feather flag appear after the other events have taken off, and know where to go closer to the start time. 12 and under only. Parents can race alongside your kiddo for free. If you don't want to run with your child(ren), we'd love to escort you to an intersection or certain spot on the race course, for you to help them turn the correct way and cheer the lil' trail runners on. Just pop up a little early and let us know you'd like to help in this way.

DROP BAGS: You can set up your own Drop Bags at the Saloon Only. We do not haul anything for this event. You set it up and you haul it off.

PACERS: Pacing for 50 milers only on 3rd loop. Everyone else running must enter as a registered runner. Pacers please sign a waiver at packet pickup as well. If you don't arrive until later in the day, just ask volunteers at the finish line area for a waiver.

RUNNER CREWS: No aid stations are accessible to crews except at the Start/Finish, unless you hike, bike or run out to them.

PARKING: At the start/finish: The ranch gates never closes. Plenty of room.

RACE BIBS: Race Bibs must be visible so the other runners know which race you are in and also so the cameras can read them at all times.

CHIP TIMING: This is a chip-timed race. What this means is that we use timing chips to collect your split times, finish time, and the fact that you started. Your official start time will be the same as everybody else...when the race starts (not your chip offset from the start). You will not get an official time unless you are wearing your chip from start til finish. Make sure you have it on, and have it on correctly every time you cross the mat (after each loop) The timing chips are sensitive to angle and proximity with the timing mat, such that if you do a somersault over the timing mat, it may miss you. If it's in your pack, it will miss you. Best and safest bet is to wear it on your ankle. When you are done, we need the chips back and will trade you a finisher's award for your dirty stinky strap & chip. Some of you don't like to stop when you are done, and keep on running. Please don't make us chase you down. Give us the chip back, then go on and keep running all you want. Note that chip timing does not apply to offset your start time. Start time is the same for everybody: what we call Gun-Time, when the race starts.

DNF: If you do not complete the distance you signed up for, you will show up in the results as a DNF. No more confusing “claimjumper” category in the results. Your miles may still be used toward the Tejas 400 if you align with the rules for that award.

CUTOFF: 8:00pm. 15 hours for 50mi, but 8:00pm for everybody. Further, nobody will be allowed to leave for another loop after 3:00pm. **3:00 PM Saloon Cutoff** is not the cutoff for the 50km/25km/10km runners. This time is simply to save any 50mi runner from starting a 3rd loop when they are already going too slow to finish the 50mi distance in 15 hours. There are additional cutoffs for each station. We like to think of these aid station cutoffs as **QUITTING TIME** for the volunteers. Nobody is allowed past these cutoff times. These times are final. Understand: you do not have the option to continue on your own past this time. We are still responsible for you. If you continue past this cutoff, you will be reported to the park officials and they will deal with you.

ENTRY VERIFICATION: Click on “Registered List” on the Hells Hills page.

COURSE MARKING: Large yellow directional arrows will be at every intersection, Ribbons will be leading into and out of each of the same intersections. We also use red Wrong Way signs (at the appropriate places), which are self-explanatory. Occasionally, some brush is stacked in front of a trail to direct you away from it. We do not use glow sticks. Instead, we use reflective tape. The brighter the light, the more visible these are. If you have no light, you won't see them. It is your responsibility to stay on course. If you get off course, go back to where you got off. A good thing to keep in mind is that the person you're following might not know where he is going. Just because he is faster does not mean he is smarter. If you do follow a person off course, you have become a **LEMMING** and deserve the extra distance for your mental laziness. Remember to tell me when you are done so I can charge you for extra distance you did not pay for.

ROUTE & TERRAIN: A fair bit of rocks, a collection of rolling creek bed drop-ins and rollouts, a twisty-turny riot of single-track trails, with the Wall & the Grind at the end of each loop. Not much for elevation. Mostly single-track through a forest of pines. The ranch will occasionally change a trail: close one, and open another, due to erosion control or other issues. There are usually some minor changes. The only way to know what these changes are is to **show up at the pre-race briefing**. The course will have been marked by then and we will know for sure what to tell you. Oh, and did I mention the rocks...

50mi COURSE: A 16.67mi loop, repeated thrice. Starts & finishes at the Saloon. First 1 mile is pretty hilly, but settles into a constant slightly rolling single-track that twists a lot. The last mile is very similar to the first mile.

50km COURSE: Exactly the same as the 50mi, except to skip a trail called Frontalabotomy and two loops of the same.

25km COURSE: Same as 50km, but only 1 loop.

BEWARE: The beast of this race is in the [Heat & Humidity](#). Most years, each loop, the temp ratchets up another 10 degrees or more, so 1 loop is awesome, two gets warm, three gets HOT. So, run fast and get out quick.

CLAIM JUMPERS: I will allow a 50km runner who has run the 25km distance (and DNF the 50km) to be included in the 25km results, but these names and times will be placed after those who registered and ran the 25km. These 2 races run the same course, so it is do-able. This is not true for the 50mi or the 10km.

DOGS: Dogs are not allowed on the course or at any aid station, even when on a leash.

CAMPING: For RV hookups and camping... call Rocky Hill Ranch (512-988-0988)

RESULTS: Results will be posted at regular intervals during the event. Please direct any and all corrections to Kyle Wilkie first and Chris McWatters second. If you feel that any of your data is incorrect please inform us right away. The sooner we know about errors, the easier it is to correct. This includes your final time & placement. Final results will be posted within a few days after the race on our site.

AID STATION FOOD & DRINK: The aid stations begin with all the basics: water, sodas, Tailwind, gels, salted items in pretzels and chips, sugars in candies, plus cookies, and pb&j sandwiches. Also, we usually find some fresh fruits such as oranges, bananas, and melons. Not all aid stations will have the same foods.

CUPLESS: This is a trail race... it usually takes a bit longer than you might expect to go from one aid to the next. We are a cupless organization now. So you'll have to have something to put water and other fluids into at each aid station. Either way, if you're new to Texas, the weather can change quickly and humidity is common in this area pretty much all year long. Especially this time of year. We recommend you carry a water carrying device.

OTHER FEES: Day Use fee during events & races is \$10 per person, per day, for both spectators & participants. We now collect this in our online reg system on behalf of the park – for participants. But the park will still require it from spectators. Consider it a donation for them to maintain these awesome trails you'll be enjoying soon! It is free for 12 and under.

WHAT WE DO NOT ALLOW:

Please see "Policies" link on website.

IN CASE of RACE CANCELLATION: (For Any Reason)

There is no refund.

IF THERE IS A WAIT LIST:

There is a \$20 holding fee for a place on the wait list.

if you get in, the holding fee will be deducted from the balance owed.

if you do not get in, for any reason, the holding fee is not refunded.

RECORDS:

	male	female
50mi 6:46:24	Anthony Jacobs	Nicole Kalogeropoulos 7:25:21
50km 3:50:22	Matt Harrington	Melanie Fryar 4:20:42
25km 1:35:22	Ryan Woods	Dani Moreno 1:49:09
10km 0:39:40	Robert Patterson	Kaytlynn Welsch 0:48:17

AWARDS: (Matching awards for Male & Female)

Overall– 1st-through-5th finishers (regardless of age)

Masters– 1st-through-3rd finishers (50+)

LITTERING: Do not dump any trash on the trails. There will be trash bags at every aid station and that's the only place you can leave it. If you take it with you from a station, then you must carry it to the next station. Littering is cause for disqualification from the race. Also, there are many items left behind after the race. To us, this is also litter. It is just more for us to deal with that we do not want. These items will be dumped in one fashion or another.

Note*: Runners are responsible for their crews. A runner can be disqualified if their crew is busted for speeding or littering. Yes! Sorry to say we have come to that. But if we let this go, we will not be allowed back into the parks we love putting races on for you.

SALOON - THE AID STATION: This is the old gutted building that is basically just a roof now. It does have a few bathrooms and showers. On Friday & Pre-Race Saturday morning, it becomes Packet Pickup & Trail Brief. On Saturday, it becomes the Saloon Aid Station: ie: Start, Finish, and Aid Station. After the race is over, this is where we begin to pile everything we used as a pre-load area for it all going back into the trailer. Anyway, everything happens at the Saloon.

OFF THE LIP - THE AID STATION: A water only aid station.

BOTTLEINFRONTOFME - THE AID STATION: This is the 1st full service Aid Station.

TUNNEL OF PINES - THE AID STATION: This is the 2nd full service Aid Station.

TRAVEL: Nearest airport is Austin

SHARE THE TRAIL: First off, this race is not a ROAD race. It is primarily run on single-track trail. That being said, we play by a different set of rules than you would on a road or track. If someone is behind you and would pass if there were room, then you must let them pass. It is not acceptable to trap a faster runner behind you simply because you can. It doesn't mean that you must stop and wait for them to get by you. It does mean that you should allow them to pass if they want to. Give them room and opportunity to do so. You can also talk to a person close behind to ask if they wish to pass. Maybe they do and maybe they don't. Pretty much the same rules you got in kindergarten: play nice with the others & treat them like you would like to be treated. This message is the same for the faster runners: let people know when you want to pass & don't be a jerk about it. This leads to those who are plugged in: make sure you can hear what is going on around you. Also, because we are using the trails of a park, we DO NOT have exclusive rights to the park or to the trails. Be considerate and understanding to the other park users: be they hikers, bike riders, or equestrians.

NO SHOW: Please let us know if you aren't going to make it with a friendly email. It saves a lot of trouble with data for us and is much appreciated.

TRANSFERS: You cannot give or sell your race bib to another runner. A person giving their bib to another runner who happens to come in 2nd will upset the entire race results. The person you gave your bib to is not a registered runner. We always have video running, so we eventually sort it out, but because we hand out awards as you come in, the illegal 2nd place male has essentially stolen the 2nd place award, and everybody behind him is going to be out of sync with the wrong awards. Also, many of those people have already left too... with the wrong awards. We are required by the park to track every single person, and illegal bib swaps add an anonymous person to our event that we don't know. It becomes a data nightmare for our timing staff, and depending on the circumstances... could be a lot worse. Simply put: Buy your own race entry.

PACKET PICKUP: There will be two opportunities to pick up your race packets: Friday evening & Saturday morning. Both are at the race start area in the ranch. About 90% of all runners pickup on race morning, and race morning is chaotic, so most people are a bit out of sorts. There is a lot of tension and it seems that those who show up last, expect the most from the people working packet pickup. Please don't forget the people working packet pickup are volunteers. It isn't their fault... whatever it is that has gone wrong for you. Packet pickup is an orderly process if it is done well. It becomes disorderly when there is an exception to the rule that demands more time. People queue up in a line and we deal with each person one at a time. If all your data is correct, its a quick and easy in and out process. Even when processing late entries, this process goes smoothly... because it is expected. Kyle Wilkie (data collection) and Chris McWatters (race director) process all the data. Sometimes we make mistakes, but usually, the mistake in the data comes strait from you. People actually spell their own name wrong, enter the wrong age, address, or gender. They forget to register or register twice. It's really humorous until we get yelled at because we can't find your packet. We all need to work together on this.

ENTRANT LIST: I always post a list online of all registered runners. Please check the list now. If any of your data is incorrect, we need to know. The smallest insignificant errors create big problems later. Data input errors cause major headaches for the timing team and the race staff in general. There are times when I need your correct address to mail a refund or send something. If your gender or age is incorrect, you will be sorted into the wrong category for awards. If your name is off by one character, when I sort your name for recognition for running multiple events, we cannot connect all the races you have done. Packet pickup runs much smoother and faster if there are few issues with any of this data. Please understand that ANY errors in your personal data cause major issues somewhere down the line, so help us run smoother and faster by checking online and letting us know... right now. I have never given any email or other data to anyone in all the years I have directed races. Your data is safe with Tejas Trails.

SHIRTS: All shirts are pre-stuffed into your packets. We make certain that every person who registers before late date gets the shirt size that they selected when they registered. **We cannot swap your shirt with a different size at packet pickup.** If you wish to slow down packet pickup by trying it on and then asking for a different one, the answer will always be the same: NO! We don't have any more shirts. I still get emails two weeks after late entry asking for shirts. Please understand: it's not because I don't like you. I don't have the shirts and the answer is still no! The simplest solution is to register before the shirt cutoff date. The cool thing is, we actually offer really sweet non-size specific gear (such as hats, visors, buffs, etc.) to those who miss the shirt cutoff. And even cooler than that is we let you swap for any items leftover, any sizes, after 10:30am on raceday...for no extra charge. How cool is that?!

MAILING STUFF: Tejas Trails may seem like a big business at first blush, but it is not. We are still just a mom & pop organization. It is just Krissy and I. As much as we love you, we don't have time to mail everyone their items. If you email us (and you're nice), we'll bring something to the next race. You can come grab it there.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: This and every other race out there cannot survive without volunteers. They come and give their time to help you. So, it's pretty simple: be nice to them. Any disrespect or rude behavior to a volunteer will be dealt with harshly. This race cannot exist without runners either. You all play on the same playground, so you have to learn to share the trail and be nice to each other. Same thing as with the volunteers: any disrespect or rude behavior to another runner will be dealt with harshly. Running a good race is NOT just about what I do as a RD. It is also about how all of you treat each other. Lets make this an event every one wants to come back to again.

VOLUNTEERS: If you want to volunteer please let me know or just show up and throw in with us. We get to the park on Wednesday. We always need help marking on Wed & Thu. We set up tents & haul water on Thu. We set up for packet pickup on Fri. Race day: we need many people at the aid stations. Medical always needs a few qualified professionals. Kyle needs help collecting chips. Some people are needed to hand out medals & awards.

Tear down begins at 3:00pm Saturday for taking down the markings, and then aid station tear down and loading the trailer. In between all of that, we have a bit of fun, visit a lot, drink some, eat a lot, and generally have a grand ol time.