

## HIGH LONESOME 100

### 2020 LOTTERY SYSTEM AND POLICY

**Last updated: 6/21/19**

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The High Lonesome 100 will be moving to a lottery registration process for 2020. While we had hoped to avoid a lottery for a few more years, the massive demand for the race has required us to make this move a little sooner. We are releasing the general framework now, but we have not finalized how the weighting process will be.

Our goal is to build a lottery that is fair, transparent, and understandable, and we are working with a PHD Statistician to design the selection/mathematical component of the process.

We will release full details by the end of September 2019.

*Please note that all details in this document are subject to change pending our final version. This document is for reference prior to the final announcement and no details herein are binding.*

#### **WHY A LOTTERY?**

The 2019 race sold 125 spots in eight minutes and a waitlist of 120+ people had formed within 50 minutes. Our model for 2020 showed over 400 people competing for 125 spots, with a likely sell-out time of under three minutes. In this situation, people with faster internet connections would have an upper hand over those with slower, which is often the case in rural or mountainous regions. In addition, this type of rush increases the risk of a server crash.

We will work to strike a balance between returning runners and first-time runners. As community and conservation are our two primary pillars, we will include a process which boosts the odds runners who help with our race and who do extra trail work. This method will be fixed and weighted so that it does not disproportionately benefit anyone but does provide a meaningful boost to those that support our values. We will also outline the methods that will go around the lottery (such as spots of sponsors) as well how many spots will be available to each method. To ensure that things are transparent, we will publish the results of each year's lottery for public review.

Since this is a new system, there may be small changes that occur within the first 1-3 years to correct issues and make adjustments. We promise to be upfront and transparent about these changes and the reasons behind them. In general, we'd like to avoid changes as much as possible to provide runners with stability and ability to plan ahead.

#### **WHATS LEFT TO FIGURE OUT**

The main part yet to be figured out is how to weight the lottery itself. We're working through a several different models right now with different weights and methods to see what works best. Obviously this is a pretty key component, which is why we are putting a lot of effort into it. We really want to get this right the first time, so please be patient with us as we work diligently to design it.

Depending on what we decide for the weighting method, we will then figure out how to do the waitlist. We are still deciding between the following three ideas, all of which would use the same weighting/selection process as the lottery.

1. Two separate waitlists for men and women.
2. One waitlist with alternating runner genders (male, female, male, female, etc).
3. One waitlist without gender constraint.

### **HOW ENTRANT NUMBERS ARE DETERMINED**

There are two entry methods into the race: General Lottery and Discretionary Slots. The number of slots available in the General Lottery is whatever our entrant cap is (as determined by our permitting agencies). The Discretionary Slots are determined as a percentage of our entrant cap, which can't exceed 10% of the cap.

To avoid reducing the number of spots for the general public, we will not be deducting the number of used Discretionary Slots from the General Lottery. Instead, we will make the full capacity available to the General Lottery and the Discretionary Slots will be added on top of this. Effectively, we are overselling the race by 10% of capacity. Since our average turnover is about 20% of capacity, this leaves 10% of capacity to be filled by waitlisters.

Prior to the registration window being opened, the exact numbers of the General Lottery and Discretionary Slots will be announced.

### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

We have made these qualification requirements because we believe that to have the best chances of succeeding at High Lonesome you need to have some experience with long distance or 100-mile trail races. You cannot register for the race without having completed a qualifier. In order to enter to run the High Lonesome 100 in the given year, you must meet one of the following requirements:

#### 2020 High Lonesome 100:

- Finish a 50 mile or 100k trail race between Nov 1st, 2018 and November 10th, 2019.
- Finish a 100+ mile trail race within the past 5 years

#### 2021 High Lonesome 100:

- Finish a 50 mile or 100k trail race between Nov 1st, 2019 and November 8th, 2020.
- Finish a 100+ mile trail race within the past 3 years

### **GENERAL LOTTERY**

The General Lottery is open to any person who meets the qualification requirements. The lottery is split into two pools: Male and Female. Applicants will apply to their respective pool (transgender and non-binary applicants apply as defined by those respective policies) during the registration period. The lottery draw will happen 2 weeks after the registration period closes and a waitlist will be generated from the unsuccessful applicants.

- Lottery Pools

- Entry spots will be evenly split between male and female genders, creating two “pools” each comprised of 50% of our entrant cap (as determined by our permitting agencies). In the event of an odd number of entrant cap, each pool will be rounded down to the lowest whole number.
- Entrants will apply to their respective gender’s pool during the lottery application window and the same lottery selection process (yet to be finalized) will apply to both.
- If the number of applicants in a pool is less than the number of the pool’s allocated spots, the additional spots will be given to the other pool.
- Should neither pool receive enough applicants to fill their allocated spots, the remaining spots will be opened for general registration with no restrictions on the basis of gender.
- Transgender and Non-binary applicants will apply to the appropriate pool as defined by our Transgender/Non-binary policy.
- Entering the Lottery
  - Applicants will register for the lottery on the designated platform (most likely UltraSignup.com)
  - Applicants must meet all qualification requirements, no exceptions.
  - The registration window will open at 12:01am on the first Monday in November and close at 11:59pm on the proceeding Sunday (7 days later). The draw will happen the Friday after the registration period closes.
- How the lottery is weighted
  - TBD
  - The following things will “boost” a person’s odds in the lottery. The exact weighting of these boosts is TBD.
    - Extra trail work
    - Volunteering at the High Lonesome
    - Previous failed attempts in the lottery
    - Previous finishes of the race
- How the draw happens
  - The draw will happen the Friday after the registration period closes. The exact time off the draw will be announced annually.
  - The draw will be conducted electronically (not on paper).
- How the waitlist is made
  - TBD

## **SPONSOR SLOTS**

As part of our sponsorship packages, certain tiers are allowed an athlete entry. The maximum number of slots is defined below. It is not required that we use all available slots.

- The number of sponsor slots will be determined annually and shall not exceed 3% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the allowed entrants (as determined by our permitting agencies).
- These slots are filled outside of the lottery process.
- Sponsorship entrants are not restricted on the basis of gender.
- Sponsorship entrants must meet all qualification and trail work requirements.
- Sponsor Slots are not eligible for deferrals.

## **RD DISCRETIONARY SLOTS**

The Race Director reserves the right to allow entry outside the lottery process as defined below. The purpose of the RD slots is to allow some flexibility in the lottery system while maintaining the transparency and veracity of the lottery process.

- The number of RD Slots will be limited to a maximum of 2% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the allowed entrants (as determined by our permitting agencies).
- RD Slots are not required to be used but may not exceed the maximum allowed.
- The use of the RD Slots is at the sole discretion of the Race Director.
- The fee for RD Slots may not exceed the entry price for the current year but may be offered at a reduced price.
- RD slots are not subject to qualification requirements but are subject to all trail work requirements.
- RD slots are not restricted on the basis of gender.

### **VOLUNTEER SLOTS & TICKETS**

Each year, during the awards ceremony we will raffle away a set number of Volunteer Slots to eligible volunteers. The purpose of this policy is to encourage prospective runners to be a part of the race outside of racing while also providing dedicated volunteers a better chance of entering the race. Volunteers receive one ticket per shift they work, and if they are not drawn in the raffle, they may use these tickets to boost their odds in the lottery. Please see lottery weighting section for more detail on how volunteer tickets affect the lottery process.

- The number of Volunteer Slots will be limited to a maximum of 5% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the allowed entrants (as determined by our permitting agencies).
- To be eligible for the raffle, the volunteer must meet the qualification requirements at the time of the drawing.
- Volunteer Slots are not transferable and must be redeemed immediately.
- 1 raffle ticket is given out for each volunteer shift worked. Shifts are defined and tracked by the volunteer coordinator.

### **LEGACY RUNNERS**

Legacy runners (as defined below) are granted a lottery bypass to the race so long as they do not miss a year. The purpose of this policy is to thank the runners who have supported the race from the very beginning.

- A Legacy runner is anyone who has started every year of the High Lonesome 100 and has at least 2 official finish from the 2017, 2018, or 2019 High Lonesome.
- Legacy runners are granted a lottery bypass to the race so long as they do not miss a year.
- Once a runner has missed a year, they are no longer considered a legacy runner.
- Legacy status will be lost if they DNF or defer 2 consecutive times.

### **DEFERALS & REFUNDS**

Refunds are not offered for any reason. However, runners may defer their spot to the following year for the following reasons:

- They meet one of the three criteria listed in our Pregnancy and New Child Policy (see policy for terms).
- They are successfully drawn into Wester States or Hardrock. The following rules apply:
  - A credit of 25% of the entry fee will be given for this type of deferrals.
  - Miles-to-dollars donations, Opt-Out fees, or additional purchases do not roll over.
  - The deadline to request the deferral is 7 days after the respective lottery.
  - Runners must meet the qualification requirements in order to use their deferral for the following year.

#### **EXAMPLE OF LIKELY 2020 LOTTERY SET UP**

##### Capacity:

- Entrant cap: 125 runners
  - General Lottery: 124 runners
    - Men's pool: 62 runners
      - Male legacy runners get lottery bypass
      - Male deferrals get lottery bypass
    - Women's pool: 62 runners
      - No female legacy runners
      - Female deferrals get lottery bypass
  - Discretionary Slots: Maximum of 13 runners
    - Maximum Sponsor Slots: 4
    - Maximum RD Slots: 3
    - Maximum Volunteer Slots: 6

##### Dates:

Registration period opens at 12:01am on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and closes at 11:59pm on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Draw happens on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.