



OPSF
50/50
TOUGHEST RACE
IN INDIANA

Welcome to the Owen Putnam State Forest

OPSF 50/50 Trail Race Challenge

10k, 14mile, 50k, 50mile Race Distances

March 21, 2026

Participant Guide

OPSF50 | 50 Participant Guide 2026

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WELCOME

Welcome! And thank you for joining us for the 33rd annual Owen-Putnam State Forest 50-Mile, 50-kilometer, 14-mile and 10-kilometer trail race. OPSF50|50 takes place in a beautiful and rugged area of Indiana just one hour west of Indianapolis. Please read the participant guide prior to the race and contact us with any questions. See you soon!

ORGANIZATION

OPSF50|50 is organized by Indiana Trail Running Association (ITRA), a non-profit organization, and permitted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. ITRA is an association of trail runners and outdoor advocates committed to preserving, building, and running the beautiful trails in the state of Indiana. The race is only possible through the tireless effort of over forty volunteers including communications, aid station support, and medical staffing.

HISTORY

Started in 1993 as a 50-mile race, the course changed a few times in the first ten years and eventually added a 50-kilometer, 14-mile, and 10-kilometer option. OPSF50|50 was successfully run for twenty years and became known as a tough event that challenged runners of all abilities. Unfortunately, due to external factors, the race was not run in 2013, and its future became uncertain. Knowing OPSF50|50's storied past and loving a challenging race, Terry Fletcher revived the race in 2014. The course was revamped, and the race is now run in the spring of the year. In 2017, ITRA became the official owner and director of the race.

We believe that OPSF50|50 is the oldest ultra in the state of Indiana, and ITRA is proud to continue its tradition!

LOCATION

*Navigating to the Start Line - Please use the GPS Coordinates in lieu of this address - 4850 Fishcreek Rd, Poland, IN 47868 (39°22'15.3"N 86°51'06.6"W)

The event is staged at Horse Campground in Owen-Putnam State Forest. Though the town address is Poland, the nearest towns are Spencer and Cloverdale.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 20, 2026

5:00-7:00 p.m. Packet Pickup at: Civilian Brewery Corps Brewpub 14 N Washington St, Spencer, IN 47460

Saturday, March 21, 2026

6:00-9:30a.m. Packet Pickup at Horse Campground
6:45 a.m. Cutoff for drop bag transport to Aid Station A
7:00 a.m. The 50-milers and 50-kilometer runners start!
8:00 a.m. First shuttle departs the YMCA
8:50 a.m. Second shuttle departs the YMCA
9:30 a.m. 14-mile runners start!
10:00a.m. 10-kilometer runners start!

1:30 p.m.	Shuttle departs for return to YMCA
2:30 p.m.	Shuttle departs for return to YMCA
4:00 p.m.	Shuttle departs for return to YMCA
4:30 p.m.	Discarded drop bags returned to Horse Campground
4:00 p.m.	Aid B Cut Off for 50K runners
4:30 p.m.	Aid A Cut Off for 50K runners. 50K drop bags returned to Horse Campground
5:00 p.m.	Cut off for 50K distance runners.
6:30 p.m.	Discarded drop bags returned to Horse Campground
7:30 p.m.	Cut off 50M distance runners Aid Station A moving to Aid Station B (last lap)
8:00 p.m.	Aid B Cut Off for 50-mile distance runners.
9:30 p.m.	Aid A Cut Off for 50-mile distance runners. All drop bags returned to Horse Campground
10:00 p.m.	Cut off for 50-mile distance runners

RACE RULES

No Littering! Race Management and ITRA believe in preserving the beauty of our forests, and we believe you do too. Please discard your trash (this includes organic trash like bananas) in a waste bin. Failing to follow this direction is grounds for disqualification.

No Pets (on the course): We love your pooch, or iguana, or python, but they are not allowed to run on the course with you. If you're camping, please make sure your pet is attended to while you participate.

No shortcutting! If you head off course, you must return to the place at which you deviated and complete the course as designated. Failing to do so is grounds for disqualification.

Be respectful: All race personnel and aid station workers are volunteering so that you can have a great race experience. You must be respectful of these people as they work for you.

PARKING

14-miler and 10-kilometer Participants: Shuttles will take you to and from the Start/Finish line from:

Owen County Family YMCA
1111 State Rd 46
Spencer, IN 47460

Shuttles will depart the YMCA at 8:00 a.m. and 8:50 a.m.

Shuttles will depart Start/Finish at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.

50-mile and 50-kilometer Participants: Race parking is located at Horse Campground near the Start/Finish line. Please follow race personnel instructions on where to park. Parking is very limited, so please racers only conserve space as much as possible. Friends and families not participating in the race – please use the shuttle service by parking at the YMCA. Thank you!

RACE INFORMATION

StartTime

The 50-mile and 50-kilometer distance starts at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The 14-mile distance starts at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and 10-kilometer distance starts at 10:00a.m.

Distances

OPSF50|50 has four different trail race distances: 50-miles, 50-kilometers, 14-miles, and 10-kilometers. Runners must complete the distance for which they are registered. Runners who do not complete the race for which they are registered will not receive a finishers medal or a finishing time and will be listed as DNF.

Race Cut Off Times

The 50-mile race must be completed in 15 hours. The 50-kilometer race must be completed in 10 hours. The 14-mile and 10k race must be completed in 7 hours (though should be completed much sooner!). All cut offs will be strictly enforced.

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise: Saturday, 3/21/2026: 7:48 a.m.

Sunset: Saturday, 3/21/2026: 8:00 p.m.

Weather

Spring in Indiana can provide interesting weather. 2018 brought a winter storm with rain, snow, and ice! And then 2019 brought a 50° day with dry conditions. Please watch the weather and prepare accordingly!

PHOTOS

Photographers will be taking photos of race participants and volunteers throughout the day. Photos will be posted on the OPSF50|50 Facebook page after the race.

TIMING

This race is chip timed. There will be a split timing mat at the start/finish. However, for safety and accountability, each time you reach an Aid Station or the Start/Finish line, you must check in with the station timer. **This is mandatory.** Please provide your name and bib number to the timer. Failure to check in at an Aid Station could result in disqualification from the race. Results will be posted on Ultrasignup.com.

COMMUNICATIONS

Amateur radio operators will staff each Aid Station and the Start/Finish line as a service of Owen County Amateur Radio Association and their associated volunteers. Operators will be relaying runner check ins and other information at each Aid Station.

MEDICAL

Support for medical assistance will be provided throughout the ten-hour event by an onsite EMT. If you encounter an emergency on the trails or have any medical questions, please call 317-646-7079.

If you come across a runner on the trails who requires medical assistance, please note the nearest lettered sign so that their location can be pinpointed (signs will be placed A-K approximately one mile apart). Please note the runner's bib number when you call (317-646-7079) or reach the next Aid Station and inform the communications member.

Please note: Mobile phone coverage is intermittent at best on and around the racecourse. Reaching an Aid Station is always your best option for finding and/or communicating medical requirements.

OTHER NOTES

Cupless Race: This event is a cupless race. We care about the environment and want everyone to enjoy it for the years to come. To eliminate waste, all runners are required to have the ability to carry 20 oz of water on their person at all times.

Start/Finish & Aid Station Food & Drink: We expect runners to be more self-sufficient with fueling needs. We highly suggest you pack your own food items in your drop bag or carry in your pack. Water and Tail Wind Nutrition will be on tap. Our race volunteers will be responsible for refilling your bottles. Remember that food and drinks are for runners only.

Headlamps: Headlamps will be required for the 50-mile and 50-kilometer race distances since the race will begin before sunrise (and potentially sunset). The cutoff for 50-kilometer trail race is 5:00pm EST and the 50-mile race distance is 10:00pm EST. Always be prepared to have a headlamp as a contingency even if you plan to run the 14-mile race distance as well.

DROP BAGS

The 50-mile and 50-kilometer runners are allowed one drop bag that will be placed at Aid A. Please prominently display your name and bib number on your drop bag. When finished with your drop bag, place the drop bag in the "Discard" section for return to the Start/Finish line. Drop bags are not specifically limited in size. However, please be respectful of volunteers by keeping the size of your drop bag to a minimum. Drop bags will NOT be protected from the elements, so a water-proof or dry-bag style is recommended. Race management is not responsible for any damaged or lost items.

Please note: 14-mile and 10-kilometer runners are NOT allowed a drop bag.

PACERS

Pacers will be allowed for the 50-mile distance runners for their last “lollipop” loop. All pacers **must** check in at the start/finish line prior to pacing your runner for the last loop to finish the race. All pacers must be wearing a bib as required – no exceptions.

DROPPING FROM THE RACE

If you drop from the race, you **MUST** notify the Start/Finish timer and be marked as leaving the course. If you cannot return to the Start/Finish under your own power, you must drop at an Aid Station and notify the Aid Station timer. If possible, please drop at the Start/Finish only. It is difficult for staff to coordinate retrieving you from an Aid Station and should be reserved for emergencies only.

COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is best described as rugged. Year-round natural springs keep the course muddy in spots. That means that even dry conditions will have mud. The course is single track, horse trails, and a little fire road mixed in. The course is a lollipop: Start/Finish to Aid A is the “stick” and a loop from Aid A through Aid B and back to Aid A is the delicious “pop”. Aid A to the Start/Finish completes the lollipop.

Tree Markings Guide

ORANGE - first 1.5 miles, stay to left to follow RED trail markings up to about 2.25miles, then follow BLUE trail markings for the "pop" loop.

The 50-kilometer runners will run out the lollipop counterclockwise, do two “pops”, and then return to the Start/Finish. 50-kilometer runners will then do a counterclockwise lollipop with a truncated “pop.”

14-mile runners do one counterclockwise lollipop. 10-kilometer runners will do one counterclockwise loop.

COURSE ELEVATION

Estimated elevation gain is 8,500 ft for the 50-mile race; 4,500 ft for the 50-kilometer race and 2,000 ft for the 14-mile race.

AID STATIONS

There are three Aid Stations: Start/Finish (Horse Campground), Aid A (Mountain Bike Trailhead), and Aid B (Rattlesnake Campground). Gatorade and Cliff Bars will be provided along with sweet and salty prepackaged food.

Aid Station	Segment Distance	50M Distance	50K Distance	14-mile Distance	10K Distance	Notes
Start/Finish	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Start
Aid A	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	Drop Bag
Aid B	2.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	-----	
Aid A	5.8	11.3	11.3	11.3	-----	Drop Bag
Start/Finish	2.7	-----	-----	14	3.5	Finish
Aid B	2.8	14.1	14.1			
Aid A	5.8	19.9	19.9			
Start/Finish	2.7	22.6	22.6			
Aid A	2.7	25.3	25.3			Drop Bag
Aid A	2.5	-----	27.8			50k Short Loop
Start/Finish	2.7	-----	30.5			Finish
Aid B	2.8	28.1				
Aid A	5.8	33.9				Drop Bag
Start/Finish	2.7	36.6				
Aid A	2.7	39.3				Drop Bag
Aid B	2.8	42.1				
Aid A	5.8	47.9				Drop Bag
Start/Finish	2.7	50.6				Finish

COURSE MARKINGS

The course will be marked with pink tape, and some areas will be further demarcated using pennant flags and caution tape. Bright yellow signs with the ITRA or OPSF50|50 logo will also guide you on your way with information such as arrows, wrong way, and other course information. The 10-kilometer route will be marked with pink/black striped tape at the short cut loop left turn.

TIPS

Take Care of Your Feet

This course guarantees that your feet will get wet from water and mud. Utilize your drop bag and consider packing extra pairs of dry socks and even an extra pair of shoes. Anti-chafe and anti-blister products applied between toes and on other foot hot spots can also save you from a lot of discomfort.

Don't Go Out Too Fast

The first few miles of the course are also the fastest to run, but that can sometimes leave you flagging when the hills start coming. That "slow" extra minute per mile early could save you thirty minutes of walking later!

OPSF 50|50 Trail Course

Trail Tree Marking Guide

Orange markings – ~1.5 miles

Red markings - ~2.25 miles

Blue markings – full loop

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AWARDS

Each finisher will receive a finisher's medal. Individual awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers of each race distance. Male / Female Age Group Awards for top three finishers for the following: Trotters Award (20-Younger); 21-30 Years, 31-40 Years, 41-50 Years, 51-60 Years, 61-70 Years, 71-?.

START/FINISH LOCATION DIRECTIONS

The Start/Finish is located at Horse Campground in Owen-Putnam State Forest. It is a one hour drive from Indianapolis International Airport and a fifty minute drive from Terre Haute, Indiana.

*Highly encourage using the coordinates with your GPS navigation App to navigate to the start line.

The address can be misleading using GPS navigation app.

The address for Horse Campground (Start/Finish) is:

4850 Fishcreek Rd, Poland, IN 47868 (39.36886, -86.85731)

From Indianapolis:

Road conditions near Owen-Putnam State Forest: The shortest route from Indianapolis has narrow gravel roads and steep hills for the last few miles before Horse Campground. ***See the alternative route for better roads (this will add about 10-15 minutes to your trip).***

Take I-70 W to exit 41, US-231 S. Head south through Cloverdale and toward Spencer to a slight right onto Rocky Hill Road. Turn right onto Cuba Road and continue until you reach a single lane bridge on the right, County Road 280 W. Turn right over the bridge then immediately turn left onto Hale Hill Road. Continue Hale Hill Road for about two miles. Turn left onto Fishcreek road and continue for about .4 of a mile. Horse Campground will be on your right.

Alternative: Take I-70 W to exit 41, US-231 S. Head south through Cloverdale and toward Spencer. In Spencer, turn right onto E Hillside Avenue. Continue for about a mile then turn right onto IN-46. Turn right onto Fishcreek road. Continue for about 5 miles and Horse Campground will be on your left.

From Terre Haute:

Take I-70 E to exit 11, IN-46. Head east toward Spencer. Turn left onto Fishcreek road. Continue for about 5 miles and Horse Campground will be on your left.

CAMPING AND LODGING

McCormick's Creek is a great place to stay the evening before. Contact Canyon Inn - Reservations: 812-829-4881 or toll free 877-922-6966.

Camping at Horse Campground is \$18 per night. If you camp, make sure you bring cash or check since you will be self-registering. Camping is on a first come basis, and there's about 8 campsites. We cannot guarantee you a spot.

SPONSORS

We are thankful for our sponsors and the partnership we have in providing this event for you. If you are interested in supporting OPSF50|50 and Indiana Trail Running Association, please contact

raceinfo@opsf5050.com



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ENDURANCE