



2017 Course Description

Course Marking

The ascent from the Start to the ski area will be marked with reflective tape on lathe and with lighted strobes. Where necessary, the course will be marked with GREEN (ascending) and RED (descending) pin flags. Some ascents and descents will be marked with PINK & BLACK survey tape on wood lath or tied in the trees.

Section 1 - Town to Painterboy

The race starts at the Crested Butte Community School/Town Ranch Trailhead. There, the course heads east on Tony's Trail to the base of Mt CB. Where it leaves the groomed Nordic trail system and becomes a climbing traverse towards the summer Upper Loop trail and the ski resort.

NEW 2016 Course Modification:

At **(mile 2.2)**, the course switchbacks RIGHT, departing the Upper Loop Trail, ascending through the aspens, approximating the summer route of the newly completed "Happy Hour" summer trail, delivering racers to the CBMR boundary at the "Banana Exit" cat track. The route then veers LEFT onto this cat track and eventually descends to the base of the West Wall Lift.

Racers are required to descend (skiers LEFT) of West Wall Lift, to avoid Prater Cup alpine race training.

At the bottom of West Wall Lift, the race route skirts the base area, ascending parallel to the Magic Carpet, until just before the Silver Queen Lift you will start climbing Warming House Hill, continuing to Houston ski trail, and the base of Painter Boy Lift. Ascend to the LEFT of Painter Boy Lift to gain the ridge. **Here, a course marshal will enforce a strict 7:45 AM CUT-OFF at this check-point (Mile 4).**

Section 2 - Painterboy to Gothic Townsite

The course then descends the North Pass ski run all the way through the **Prospect Drive tunnel**. Look for RED pin flagging directing you around the Prospect subdivision, onto a cat track leading towards the CBMR Maintenance Building.

Just before the entrance to the maintenance yard, the course abruptly turns and climbs to the LEFT. **A course marshal will be stationed at this transition**, directing racers uphill, across the road towards the Snodgrass parking area.
(Mile 5.2)

The course then climbs approximately 600 vertical feet up the marked Snodgrass skin track onto a bench before transitioning to descend down to Gothic Road at the Rosy Point bend (Mile 6.2). **There will be a course marshal at this transition**. The course veers left on this descent, through the aspens. Watch for flagging in the aspens and expect variable conditions.

The race route continues heading north on Gothic Road all the way to the Gothic Townsite (Mile 9.2). **A course marshal in Gothic will enforce a 9:00 AM CUT-OFF**.

Section 3 - Gothic Townsite to the Magic Meadows Yurt

The route continues on Gothic Road where it turns LEFT (west) onto trail 403 which ascends, winding through the woods and meadows, for about 2,000 vertical feet to the Top of the World (Mile 13.6) where a **course marshal will be stationed**.

From there, it descends down the ridge a few hundred vertical feet to a saddle, and then ascends up to Anthracite Mesa, roughly 400 vertical feet. **A course marshal will be stationed at the top of this transition**. The route continues along the ridge for a couple hundred yards until veering right and descending toward the Slate River drainage, approximately 1700 feet below.

THIS DESCENT IS IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN. It is critical to follow the lath with PINK & BLACK survey tape to avoid private property and to take the safest route to the valley floor. Expect variable conditions, and exposed obstacles on this descent. Please stay within 20 meters of the course marking. Racers that stray too far from the course marking will be subject to disqualification.

Once on the valley floor in Pittsburg (Mile 16.3), the course heads LEFT (south) on Slate River Road for approximately 4 miles progressing towards the Oh-Be-Joyful campground and the town of Crested Butte. Just past the Oh-Be-Joyful campground turnoff the course veers RIGHT (west) leading you to the Gunsight Bridge crossing the Slate River. This gentle decent will be marked with pin flags. Just beyond the bridge the course connects to the groomed "Mike's Mile" nordic trail (Mile 20).

The course continues south on Mike's Mile following pin flags for 1.5 miles. You will be directed through the nordic trail network, until finally arriving at a short powder descent to the Finish at the Magic Meadows Yurt.