

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

TO THE 30th ANNUAL EVENT!

September 1-3, 2023



Welcome to the 30th Annual Copper Harbor Trails Fest! We're excited to have you join us at our Labor Day weekend event. This participant guide has all the information you need to plan your trip. We update it regularly so be sure to check back for new info as it is released.

GETTING HERE

Find US-41 and head north. Yup, just head north. US-41 ends/begins in Copper Harbor. The main trailhead is right in the middle of town next to Donny Kilpela Memorial Park, our home base for the weekend. Everything is within a few blocks so once you arrive you most likely will not need your car much while you are in Copper Harbor. Just ride your bike!

NEED TO KNOW

Copper Harbor is a very small town. We have all the basics: lodging, food, beer, a couple bike repair/rental shops, world-class trails, and miles of forests, lakes, rivers, and shorelines to explore. We don't have cell service in town. Limited internet is available at local businesses but to get a cell signal you will have to drive to the top of Brockway Mountain. An emergency phone is available on the east side of the Grant Township Hall near the trailhead and restrooms.

LODGING

There are plenty of lodging options available including cabins, motels, full service and rustic camping. Please use the links on the [Copper Harbor Trails Club website](#) and support those businesses that support the trails. Copper Harbor fills up fast for Trails Fest weekend so make your reservations early. CHTC reserves the group campsite at Fort Wilkins, which is available for \$9/night per person. [Registration for the group campsite can be found here.](#)

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

If you don't plan to race every event, please consider volunteering! All volunteers will get free entry to the evening's music, a swag item, and beer (if over 21) and/or food tickets for their efforts depending on how much you volunteer - in addition to the tickets you get for racing! [Volunteer signups can be found here on RunSignup.](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions, please send an email to nathan@copperharbortrails.org. Follow the Copper Harbor Trails Club [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages for updates as the event approaches. If you need details close to the event, email is your best bet. We cannot guarantee we'll reply to your messages quickly during the event (we're busy out there!), so get those questions to us as soon as you can for the quickest replies.

Looking to spectate a race? [Download the 2023 Spectator Guide!](#)



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Subject to change as we approach the event! Check back often for more details.

Friday, September 1, 2023

7:00 - 9:00 PM Registration & Check-in Open in Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
8:30 - 10:15 PM Free showing of [*Nothing's For Free*](#) in the Park

Saturday, September 2, 2023

8:00 - 9:30 AM Registration & Check-in Open in Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
10:00 AM XC Race Start in Downtown Copper Harbor
12:00 - 2:00 PM Registration Open in Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
2:00 - 11:00 PM Beer served at Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
2:00 - 5:00 PM Guided Women's Only Enduro Pre-ride at East Bluff
3:00 PM Downhill Race on Overflow
4:00 PM Junior MTB races at the Trails End Campground
4:00 PM Pasties served at the Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
6:00 PM Awards Ceremony in Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
6:45 PM ArtBike Opening in Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
7:00 - 11:00 PM Music by **Chasin' Steel** at the Donny Kilpela Memorial Park

Sunday, September 3, 2023

8:00 - 9:30 AM Registration & Check-in Open in Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
8:30 AM 10K Trail Run starting at Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
9:30 - 11:15 AM* Enduro Race – Beginner class *depending on wave
9:30 AM - 1:50 PM* Enduro Race – Sport class *depending on wave
9:30 AM - 3:25 PM* Enduro Race – Expert class *depending on wave
2:00 PM - 11:00 PM Beer served at the Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
4:00 PM Pasties served at the Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
6:00 PM Awards Ceremony in Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
7:00 - 11:00 PM Music by **4onthefloor** at the Donny Kilpela Memorial Park
8:30 PM Raffle Drawing in between sets

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

ENDURO

The Enduro is a stage-race format where the goal is to accumulate the lowest combined time from a series of individually timed sections. Awards will be given to the top three men and top three women overall in each class. Our enduro consists of either 2 (Beginner), 4 (Sport), or 6 (Expert) timed stages that take place on generally descending terrain. The timed stages are linked by predominantly ascending transfer stages. Although a rider's specific performance on the physically demanding transfer stages does not affect his or her result, the transfers are associated with an overall time cut-off. The Enduro race courses are run on a mix of intermediate through expert singletrack depending on the class.

Riders in each class will have assigned waves for their given class. Each wave has a preset starting time and stage order to help keep congestion to a minimum. Racers will have a chance to choose their wave at registration so that you may ride with friends. Waves can be changed until they are full. We'll release more precise times and stages closer to the event. Detailed wave schedule information will be given out to each racer at check-in.

Scores in the Sport and Expert Enduro are eligible for the [Lake Superior Gravity Series](#). Points will be awarded for men/women in 16-and-under, 17-39, and 40+ age categories.

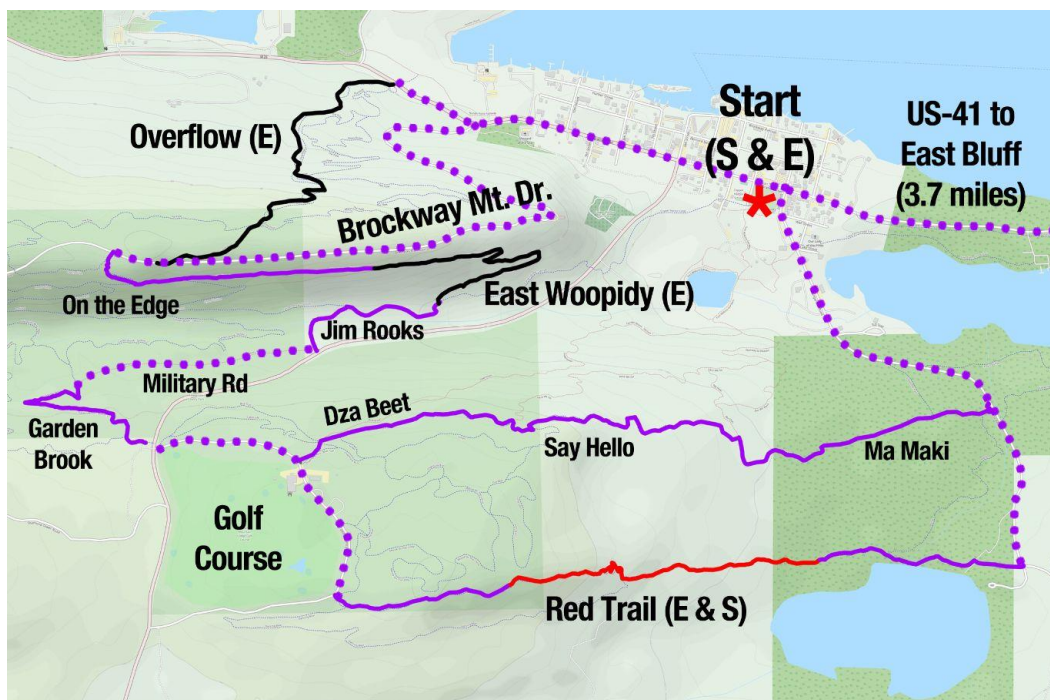
All Enduro classes have a pre-race course talk prior to beginning. Sport and Expert classes should plan to meet up in the Donny Kilpela Memorial Park at 9:20 AM to hear course updates and other advisories. Beginner class racers should plan to meet at East Bluff for their 9:20 AM course talk. Beginner racers may drive to East Bluff to avoid the long ride out to their two stages.

Don't forget to grab your ankle timing chip the morning of your race! It must match your bib number and be returned at the end of your race to ensure you get your times.

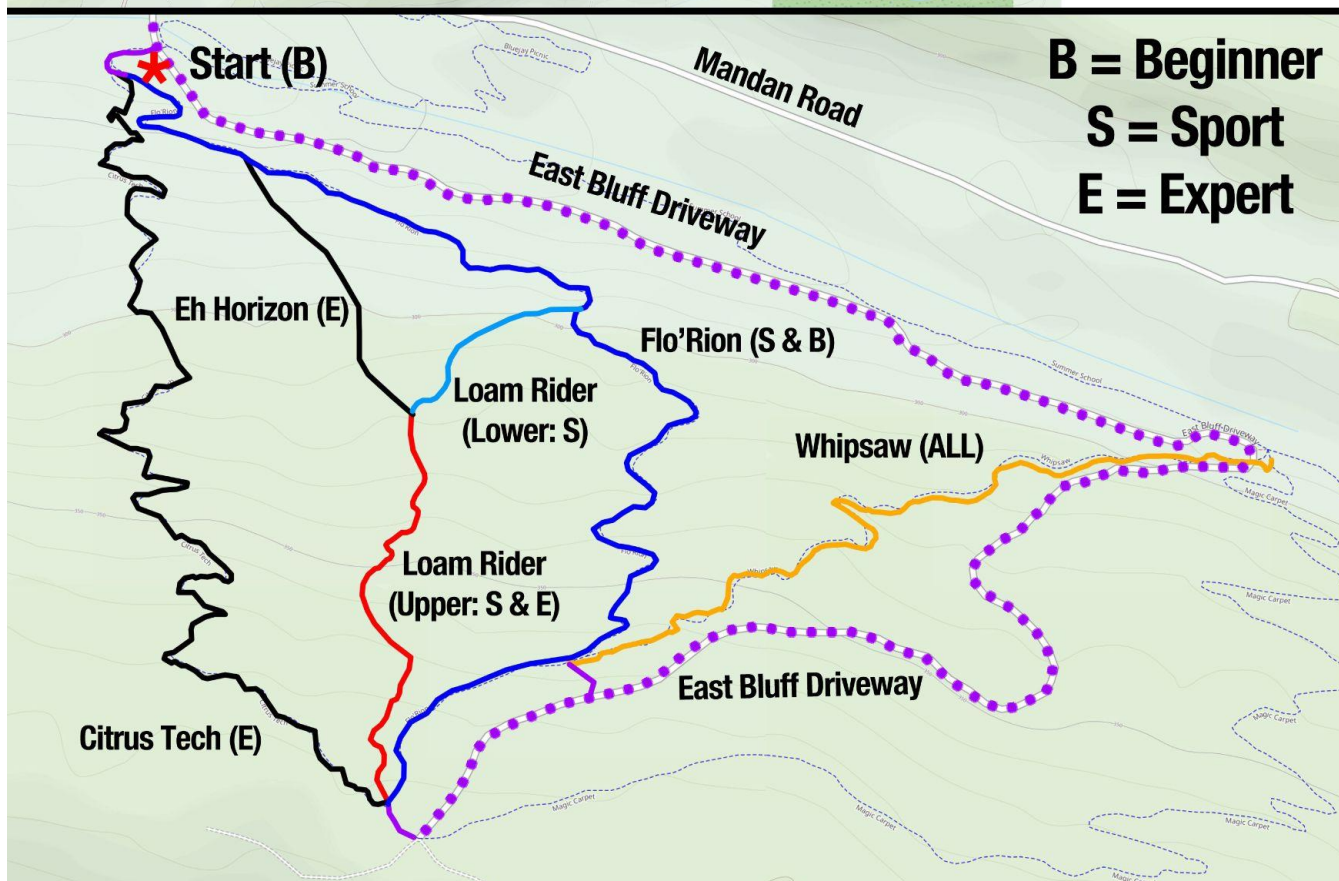
Expert & Sport Wave Start and Estimated Finish Times	
Wave 1	9:30 AM - 12:55 PM (Sport) or 2:05 PM (Expert)
Wave 2	9:50 AM - 1:15 PM (Sport) or 2:25 PM (Expert)
Wave 3	10:10 AM - 1:35 PM (Sport) or 2:45 PM (Expert)
Wave 4	10:30 AM - 1:50 PM (Sport) or 3:05 PM (Expert)
Wave 5	10:50 AM - 3:25 PM (Expert)

More precise wave and stage schedules will be given to racers at check-in.

[Click here for a larger version](#) of the Enduro Course Map found on the next page..



2023 Copper Harbor Trails Fest Enduro Course
Sunday, 9/3
9:30 AM
Course talks: 9:20 AM



RACERS MUST COMPLETE THE STAGES IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- **Expert class stage order:** Overflow, East Woopidy Woo, Red Trail, Citrus Tech, Whipsaw, and Loam Rider into Eh Horizon (~22.5 miles and ~3,275 feet of climbing)
- **Sport class stage order:** Red Trail, Flo'Rion, Whipsaw, and Loam Rider (16.4 miles and ~2,180 feet of climbing)
- **Beginner class stage order:** Whipsaw and Flo'Rion (4.6 miles and ~830 feet of climbing)

XC RACES

The length of our XC races vary each year but always feature challenging singletrack and elevation changes that are the trademark of the Copper Harbor Trails. **New for 2023 is a Super Short XC race.** This version tackles 7 miles of chunky intermediate trail just above Copper Harbor, never straying too far from town and offering racers a fun loop that is in the sweet spot for young or beginner XC racers looking to get their first big race out of the way. The original Short course is 15.5 miles and the Long course is near 31.3 miles. The exact course is altered every year for variety and to take advantage of new trails. All racers begin with a mass roll-out at 10:00 AM in front of the [Mariner North](#). Course splits will be well marked.

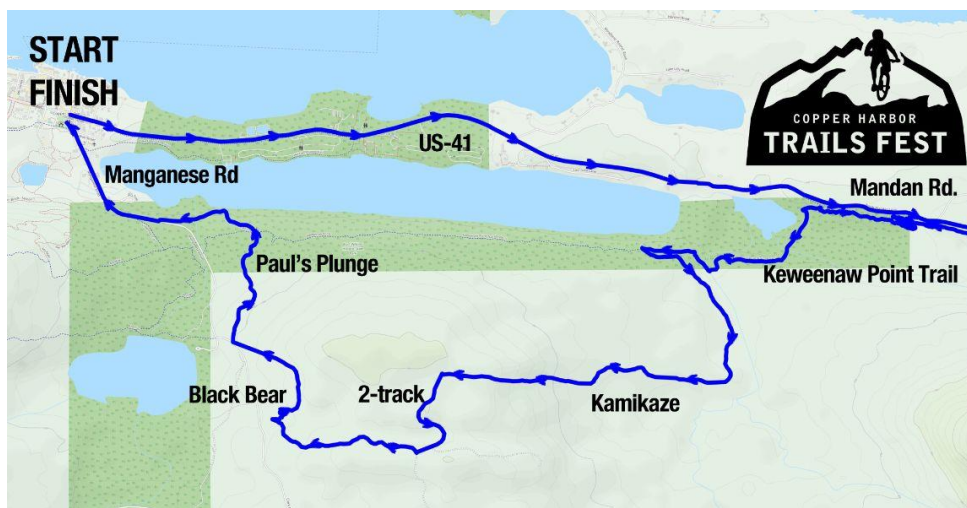
Awards will be given out by age group and gender for both short and long races, combined single speed competitors in the short and long races, and top overall male and female in the long race.

Two aid stations will be positioned on the Short & Long XC Courses: one at the base of East Bluff near the intersection of Summer School and Flo'Rion, and the second on Mandan Rd. where the Keweenaw Point Trail emerges near the beginning of Highlands. Aid stations include gatorade and water, as well as basic first aid supplied by Bike Patrolters with radios.

This year's XC event will also feature collegiate athletes competing in a USAC-sanctioned race. They will be released prior to our community racers at 9:45 AM. Although the overall race is technically a USAC event, you will not be required to be a USAC member to participate. Only collegiate racers will receive USAC points towards their series.

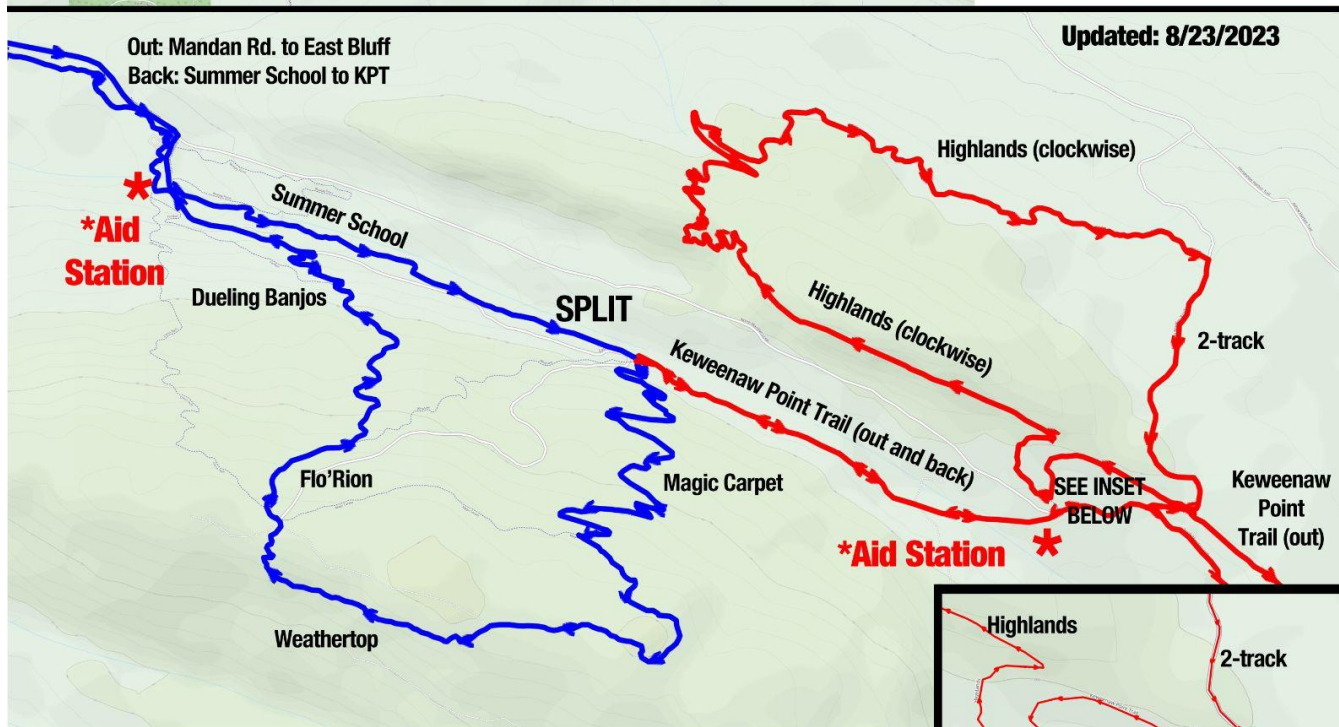


The map for the 2023 Super Short XC Race. [A larger version can be found here.](#)



2023 Copper Harbor Trails Fest XC Course

Short: 15.5 miles,
1,525' climbing
Long: 31.3 miles
2,946' climbing



EAST BLUFF COURSE SPLIT

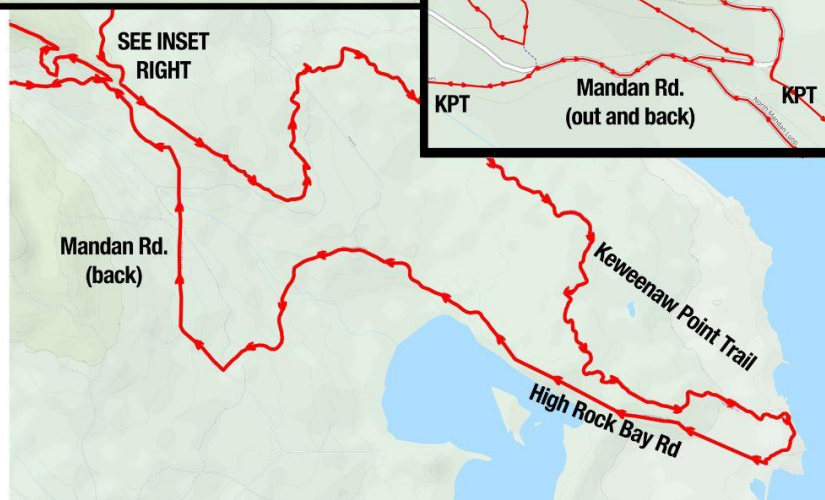
@ Summer School

Short: Turn RIGHT to climb
Magic Carpet

Long: Continue on KPT.

Upon return, turn LEFT to
climb Magic Carpet

All: Flo'Rion to Dueling
Banjos to E.B. Driveway



The map for the 2023 Short and Long XC Race. [A larger version can be found here.](#)

10K TRAIL RUN

Looking to race something other than your mountain bike? Give our ~10k competitive trail run a try! We'll give out awards to the top 3 male and female racers in this rugged race that tackles some of our system's gnarliest terrain. Don't think that just because you're not on a mountain bike that we'll go easy on you.

This year's course begins on Manganese Road and tackles the hardest portion of the course almost immediately: Paul's Plunge. Runners then connect to the former bandit trail Black Bear via a chunky, steep two-track. After winding around Black Bear for a while, you'll run up and down another short two-track connector to reach Kamikaze, another long-lost trail that was recently recovered. Scoot down the long hill before picking up the Keweenaw Point Trail, which you'll take all the way to Manganese Road. Then it's a quick jog down the hill to the finish! An aid station will be located at the top of Kamikaze about halfway through the course.



The map for the 2023 10k Trail Run Race. [A larger version can be found here.](#)

DOWNHILL

Our Downhill event will be held on our mightiest trail, Overflow. This double-black diamond (Expert-level) trail features huge rock rolls, brutally fast berms, a gap jump with a view that cannot be beaten, and more huck than you can shake a stick at. Experts only! Best 1 of 2 timed runs will determine winners. Practice time will be available prior to the event from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Shuttles will be available at the bottom of Overflow.

Scores in the Downhill are eligible for the [Lake Superior Gravity Series](#). This is the final Downhill race in the series and awards will be given out Saturday evening.

This year's DH event will also feature collegiate athletes competing in a USAC-sanctioned race. They will be released as one continuous wave before or after our community racers. Although the overall race is technically a USAC event, you will not be required to be a USAC member to participate. Only collegiate racers will receive USAC points towards their series.

JUNIOR MTB RACE (KIDS RACES)

One for the kids! We'll have 1.5 mile and 3 mile mountain bike races for children under 9 years of age. The trails we'll use will be easy-rated and free of dangerous obstacles or other hazards. Come cheer on our youngest competitors before they leave you in the dust later! Parents will be allowed to ride with their child for guidance and support. Please be respectful of other racers - it might be a race, but there's no gleaming trophy at the end or a place on the Olympic team. We're here to have fun, not crack the whip. *This race is untimed.*

Exact start times and the course will be released closer to the event.

KING & QUEEN OF THE MOUNTAIN

Do you have what it takes to dominate at every event? The King and Queen of the Mountain is awarded to the fastest racers in the Expert Enduro, Long XC, & Downhill events. You must race in all three events to qualify! KOM/QOM ranks are determined by tallying up your place in each of the qualifying races. The lowest combined score wins. This is not judged on time, otherwise whoever wins the Long XC would come out on top. After all, the Enduro and Downhill events are often judged by fractions of seconds!

BEAST MODE

Given out to the craziest man and woman on the mountain, this special award recognizes the insane spirit of those that truly appreciate trails and are able to tackle every discipline at a high level. Competitors must complete not only the Expert Enduro, Long XC, and Downhill mountain biking events, but also must take on the 10k Trail Run! All four events must be completed in their entirety to qualify for the Beast Mode award. This extra special award is unique each year. Scores are tallied the same way that the KOM/QOM are.

In the event of a tie for either the KOM/QOM/Beast Mode, we will use combined race times for each qualifying event as a tie-breaker.



REGISTRATION FEES

These are tentative and subject to change slightly!

<u>Race</u>	Before August 1	August 1 - 27	After August 27
XC (Short & Long)	\$55	\$65	\$75
Super Short XC	\$35	\$40	\$45
Enduro (Sport/Expert)	\$55	\$65	\$75
Enduro (Beginner)	\$40 (\$30 under 16)	\$45 (\$30 <16)	\$50 (\$30 under 16)
Downhill	\$55	\$65	\$75
10k Trail Run	\$50	\$60	\$70
Junior MTB	\$10	\$10	\$10

Each additional event added will be discounted \$20. **Examples:** XC (\$55) + Enduro (\$55) = \$90 (\$110 - \$20). Downhill + XC + Trail Run = \$105 (\$155 - \$40)

Refund Policy

If we cancel the event, you will have the option to get a refund of your registration fee, convert it into a donation to CHTC, or defer your registration to 2024. Otherwise, no refunds. You may transfer your registration to a friend or family member for free.

Swag & Giveaways

Each participant will receive one Trails Fest double-walled stainless steel pint glass (while supplies last), one beer ticket (over 21), one food ticket (\$10 value) to be used either Saturday or Sunday, and access to two nights of music! Junior MTB racers get a cookie from Jamsen's after their race but no food/beer ticket or swag item.

Event Shirts

We will have event shirts on sale throughout the weekend. We will not sell shirts ahead of time due to the hassle of retrieving reserved merchandise during check-in. There will be a healthy number of shirts for sale but show up early for the best selection.

Music

Wristbands for evening music will be \$20 at the door for entry to both nights. Be sure to keep your wristband! No wristband = no entry. Volunteer or race and receive free entry!