



SANCTIONED
RACE



ATHLETE GUIDE

September 13th, 2026

George Wyth State Park, Iowa

WELCOME

FROM THE YMCA RACE COMMITTEE

Athletes,

Welcome to the Black Hawk YMCA Triathlon! The committee is excited to put on the 3rd Annual triathlon fundraising event. Our goal is to raise enough money to support the cost of this event. Sponsorships would cover the cost of the operations such as timing, equipment, volunteer shirts, signage, and finisher awards. Athlete registration would be donated back to the YMCA's Annual Campaign which kicks off at the end of each year to raise funds for the scholarship program for kids. Thank you for your support of our event.

The Cedar Valley is a great place to race, and we hope you enjoy the many amenities that are available throughout our local communities. From places to stay, eat, shop, or play, you are sure to find everything you need for race day and beyond. Visit the Community tab on our website for more information. And don't forget to check out our race Sponsors while you are in town!

We look forward to seeing you all on race day! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions in the meantime.

Your YMCA Triathlon Team

In this guide you'll find more detailed information on the following subjects...

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SCHEDULE

INFORMATION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Packet Pick-Up <i>Reminder: Minors will need a parent present at packet pick-up.</i>	Black Hawk YMCA 669 South Hacket Road Waterloo

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
6:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Packet Pick-Up <i>Reminder: Minors will need a parent present at packet pick-up.</i>	Black Hawk YMCA 669 South Hacket Road Waterloo

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Packet Pick-Up Transition Area Open Timing Chip Pick-Up	George Wyth Lake Boat Ramp
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Swimming Practice	Boat Ramp
8:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Pre-Race Announcements & National Anthem	George Wyth Lake Boat Ramp
9:00 AM	Race Begins	George Wyth Lake Boat Ramp
10:30 AM	Bike Check-Out Open	Transition Area
11:00 AM	Awards	Finish Line
1:00 PM	Transition Closes	George Wyth Lake Boat Ramp

Note: Schedule is tentative and subject to change.

RACE DAY

INFORMATION

PACKET PICK-UP

Packet pick-up will be held at the Black Hawk YMCA on S. Hackett in Waterloo, Friday, September 11th from 4 PM - 7 PM and Saturday, September 12th from 6 AM - 3 PM. **Please note that all athletes must check-in and pick-up their own packet, including each member of a relay team.** Those participating under the age of 18 will need a parent present at packet pick-up. If you do not check in during the designated athlete registration hours, you will not be permitted to race.

Please make sure to bring the following items with you to athlete registration:

- Photo Identification and USAT Membership Card

Body marking and timing chips are only available from 7:00 AM to 8:45 AM on race day at the transition area entrance at George Wyth Lake Boat Ramp.

ATHLETE NUMBER

Each athlete will be provided a swim cap, race bib, bike tag, helmet sticker, and body marking that will identify your athlete number. You will not be allowed to remove your bike and gear from the Transition Area following the race without your bib number, bike number, and body marking all matching. Please do not remove your bib until after the event, as it will identify you as an athlete.

TRANSITION AREA

Athletes will be allowed to start entering the Transition Area at 7:00 AM on race day. **Each athlete must be registered, have body marking, and have their bike tag attached to their bike prior to entering the Transition Area.** Please be sure to arrive early enough to set your area as you prefer. Transition will close at 8:45 AM for race briefing and final instructions.

Athletes will not be allowed in the transition area after 8:45 AM. Please plan accordingly.

Transition area will re-open at 10:30 AM to allow finished athletes to remove their personal items from the area. Athletes will be required to check out their bike and exit through the designated opening. Race bib is required to gain entry to transition & must match your bike number as you exit.

The Transition Area will be set up so that each rack will allow six athletes - three to a side. We will have designated bike racks based on your bib number. Please find your bike rack and leave room for your fellow athletes. If space becomes an issue, we do reserve the right to move your belongings in order to create room for all athletes. If we are unable to locate you, we may move it for you.

RACE DAY

INFORMATION

RACE TIMING

The race will be officially timed by True Time Racing. Each athlete will be provided with a disposable ankle chip for timing purposes. Prior to the start of the race, fasten the chip to your left ankle and do not remove it until you have crossed the Finish Line. The chip must be worn at all times from the start until the completion of the race. Any chip lost will result in a disqualification. No Chip = No Time.

This is a USAT sanctioned race. Please allow approximately two weeks after the race for us to report finish times and places for Nationals. We do this to allow time for any disputes to be brought forward regarding athlete times/places. All times will be available on the True Time Racing website at <https://truetimeracing.com/> or click here:



CUT-OFF TIMES

To ensure the safety of our athletes and volunteers, there will be cut-off times enforced for each leg of the race.

- SWIM - Cut off 30 minutes after last swimmer enters the water
- BIKE - Athletes must enter transition to run by 11:30 AM
- RUN - Athletes must finish the race by 12:30 PM
- Transition Clean up begins at 1:00 PM

Be sure to have all your items picked up and out of the transition area before 1PM.

USAT INFORMATION

The YMCA Triathlon is a USAT sanctioned race. For a complete list of rules, please refer to the [USA Triathlon website](#). They also have a section on Most Common Rule Violations.

Penalties will be served at the first aid station on the run course.

PERSONAL SAFETY

While participating in the YMCA Triathlon, you are ultimately responsible for your own personal safety. Warm up swims from the start line will not be permitted until kayakers, lifeguards, and rescue boats are properly positioned on the water; this should be at approximately 8:00 AM on race day. If you so choose, you may get into the water ahead of time at the public beach area; however, no assistance from the YMCA Triathlon will be present.

EVENT DELAYS OR CANCELLATIONS

If unsafe water conditions force us to cancel the swim portion of the race, the event will be a run-bike-run duathlon. Athletes will complete a 1 mile run, 16.5 mile bike, and 3.1 mile run. We will follow the time trial Swim wave format for race start.

EVENT & PARKING

INFORMATION

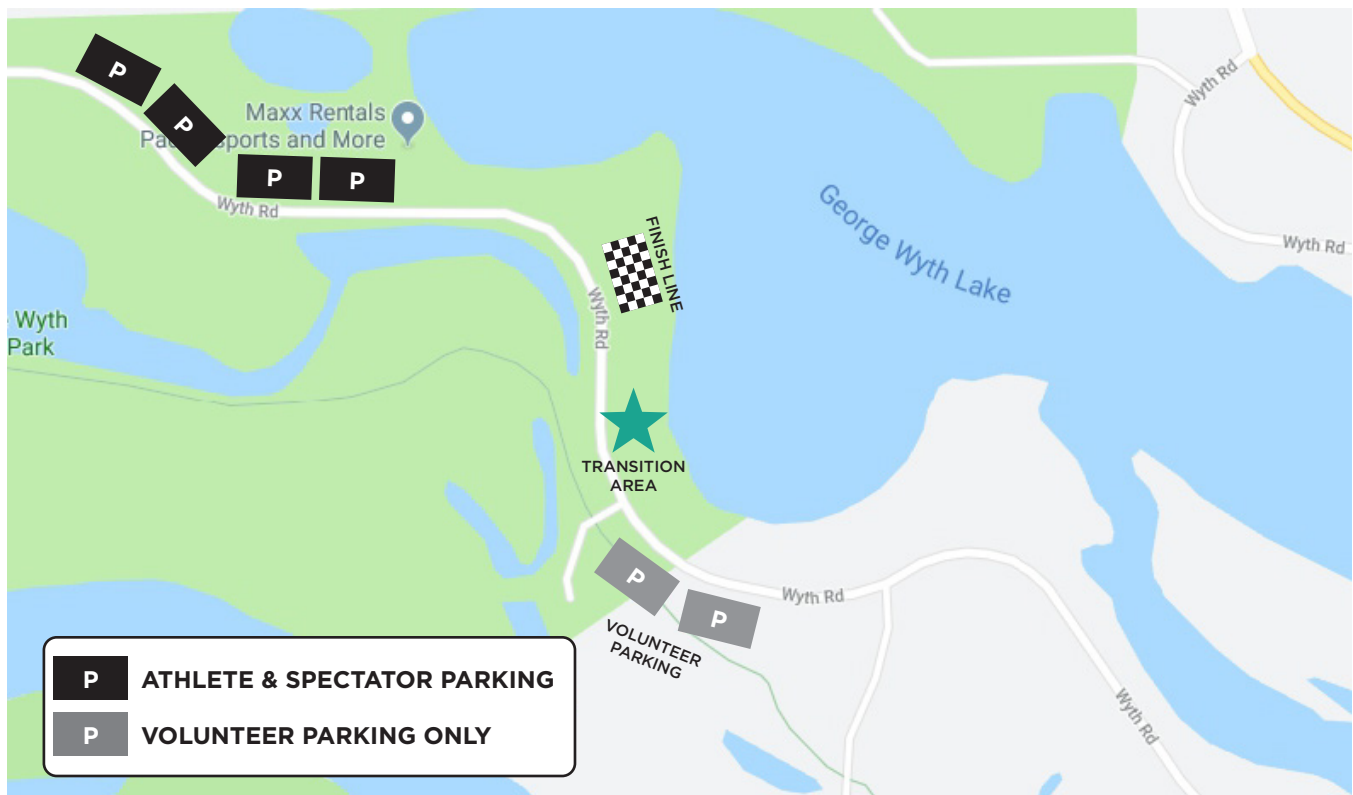
PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF RACE

[George Wyth State Park, 3659 Wyth Road, Waterloo, IA 50703](#)

PARKING

All athlete parking will be north and west of the Finish Line area along the Run Course on Wyth Road. Event parking signs and volunteers will help direct you to the designated area.

To reduce traffic on the run course, volunteer parking will be located south of the finish line area. As you enter this park, this will be prior to the finish line. **This is reserved for volunteers only – no athlete parking is allowed in this area.**



VOLUNTEERS

Please remember to thank our volunteers and local law enforcement you see out on the course! They help us put on a safe and enjoyable race, and we very much appreciate their support year after year. In fact, our race would not happen without all of them, so please make sure they know how much you appreciate them as well.

GEORGE WYTH STATE PARK

INFORMATION

PERSONAL BELONGINGS/VALUABLES

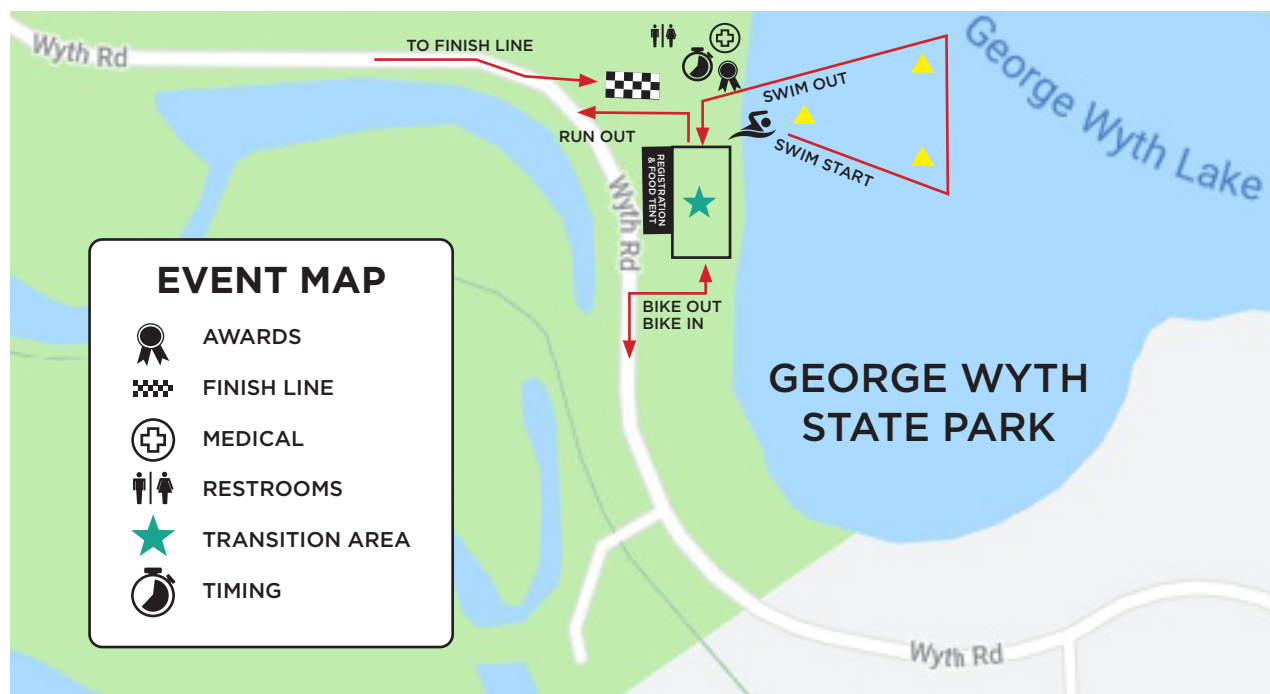
Please make sure any valuables left in your car are not out in the open. We recommend you leave them at home. The YMCA Triathlon will not be liable for any lost or stolen items.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We would love to see your race weekend photos! Please use the hashtag #YTri when posting on Facebook. Also, please watch our Facebook page for race day updates and announcements.

SPECTATOR INFORMATION

Spectator parking will be located in the same area as athlete parking (north and west of the Finish Line area along the Run Course on Wyth Road). Please note that you will be entering and exiting the park on the same road our athletes are starting and finishing the Bike Course on. We ask that all spectators are in the park by 8:00 AM and that no one leaves before 12:00 PM. Please give all athletes the same respect you would give your own.



Spectators will be able to see their athletes at various points along the course - primarily the Swim enter, Swim exit, Transition Area, Run Course, and at the Finish Line. There are plenty of grassy areas, including an elevated hill near the Start and Finish areas.

POST RACE

EVENT INFORMATION

BICYCLE & RECOVERY OF GEAR

Following the race, all athletes must be wearing your race bib in order to enter and claim your bike and gear from the Transition Area. Please make every attempt to pick up your bike and gear yourself; however, if you are unable to personally do so, a family member or friend should have your race bib to verify your belongings. Our volunteers will be very strict on who is allowed to enter the Transition Area.

Also, please be courteous to your fellow athletes. Just because you have finished your race does not mean you are not standing in the way of someone else's personal record. Come and relax near the finish line to cheer on fellow athletes while you wait to claim your bike and gear.

FOOD & BEVERAGE TENT

Athletes will receive complimentary snacks, water and a finisher glass as soon as they cross the finish line. Finisher glasses can be taken to the OP (4214 University Ave, Cedar Falls or 209 Main Street, Cedar Falls) after the race and receive 1 free pour.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards ceremony is scheduled for approximately 11:00 AM near the Finish Line area. The top three finishers in each category will receive a very special (handmade by our race director) award. If you cannot attend the awards ceremony, you may pick up your award at The YMCA (669 South Hackett Rd, Waterloo) between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.

AGE GROUPS: 19 & Under, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, and 80+

Para athletes are all in a single category regardless of age or gender.

Relay teams are all in a single category regardless of age or gender.

Your race age will be your age on race day.

LOST & FOUND

Lost and found items should be turned in to the Timing Tent on race day. All items found will be kept at The YMCA (669 South Hackett Rd, Waterloo) for 30 days following the race. Items remaining after 30 days will be donated to a local charity.



CEEDAR FALLS
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

ARTAPALOOZA

PROMOTED BY COMMUNITY MAIN STREET

CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF ARTAPALOOZA WITH US!

This annual fine art show is held annually the first Sunday after Labor Day from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM on the street and sidewalks of the Cedar Falls Downtown District. The juried art show features many talented artists from throughout the region. Artwork includes ceramics, metal, paintings, glasswork, metal sculptures, fiber, jewelry, photography, drawing, printmaking and mixed media. In addition, there is something for everyone to enjoy as downtown is filled with artist demonstrations, live entertainment and children's activities.

FREE FINISHER PINT GLASS + 1 FREE BEER



Every Finisher Deserves a Celebration!

Bring your finisher glass to the OP on University or Main Street to receive your free pour after the race, September 13th, 2026.



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OPEN WATER SWIM PRACTICE



**JUNE - AUGUST
MONDAY NIGHTS | 6 - 7 PM**

**at George Wyth State Park Boat Ramp
Just Before the Beach**

3659 Wyth Road, Waterloo, IA 50703

**More Information on our Facebook page
@George Wyth State Park Open Water Swim**

WOMEN'S 12-WEEK TRIATHLON CLASS

ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

**12 Spots Available (18 years & Older)
MONDAYS STARTING IN JUNE**

Classes will take place at George Wyth State Park
and Family YMCA of Black Hawk County



12-Weeks Include:

- Weekly Open Water Swims
- 12-Week Training Plan
- Guest Speakers
- Yoga Sessions
- Swim, Bike & Run Tips
- Race Simulations

**CONTACT US
FOR MORE INFO**

**FAMILY BLACK HAWK YMCA
319.233.3531**

669 South Hackett Road, Waterloo, IA

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SWIM COURSE



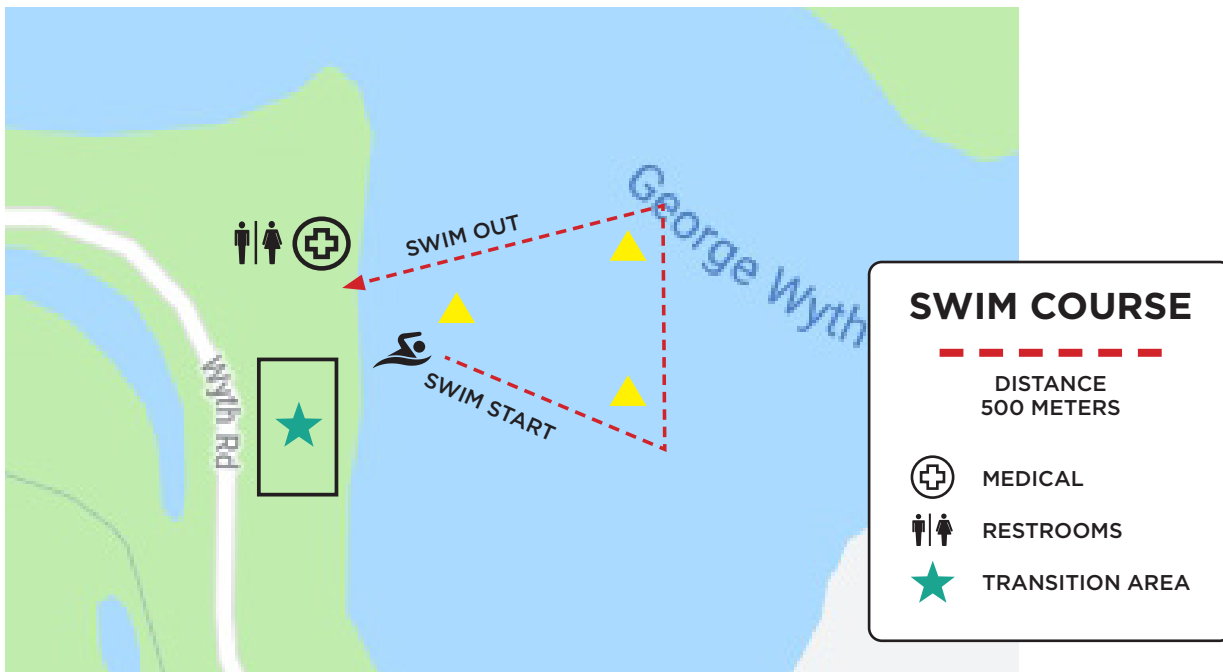
EVENT INFORMATION

SWIM 500 METERS

The Swim Course is a rectangle shaped swim that enters and exits the water on the boat ramp. Swimmers will be lined up based on their estimated swim finish time. Athletes will be released into the water individually every three seconds. Athletes should swim with the buoys to their left at all times.

Water quality in George Wyth Lake will be tested for safety in the days leading up to the race. If water quality is deemed to be unsafe for race day, the event will be a run-bike-run duathlon. Athletes will be notified of any changes as soon as possible after determination is made. Water temperature will also be measured to verify whether or not wet suits will be allowed.

Each age group participant shall be permitted to wear a wet suit without penalty in any event up to and including a water temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit. When the water temperature is greater than 78 degrees but less than 84 degrees Fahrenheit, age group participants may wear a wet suit at their own discretion, provided, however that participants who wears a wet suit within such temperature range shall not be eligible for prizes or awards. Above 84 degrees, wet suits are prohibited.



BIKE COURSE

EVENT INFORMATION

BIKE 16.5 MILES

The 16.5 mile bike course is flat and fast. The course includes turns, curves, and railroad track crossings, and portions will be open to public vehicle traffic. Areas requiring greater caution will be staffed by law enforcement and/or volunteers. Road hazards will be identified, but caution is advised throughout the course. **CPSC-approved helmets are required of all participants.**





BIKE COURSE

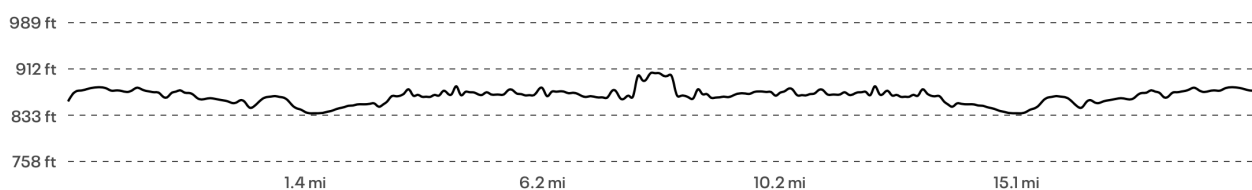
DISTANCE PROFILE

TURN-BY-TURN

Begin on Wyth Road
Left on Airport Blvd
Left on W. Airline Hwy
Right onto Leverssee Road
Left on E. Lone Tree Road
Right on Big Woods Road
Right on Dunkerton Road
Turn Around at Mile 8.28 (Dunkerton Rd)
Left on Big Woods Road
Left on E. Lone Tree Road
Right on Leverssee Road
Left on W. Airline Hwy
Right on Airport Blvd
Right on Wyth Road
Head back to Transition

ELEVATION

Start Elevation: 860 FT
Max Elevation: 907 FT



A motorcycle will lead the first athlete out of the Transition Area and around the entire course.

Please note that some portions of the course will be open to public vehicle traffic. Local law enforcement and volunteers are provided at major intersections to help keep you safe. Traffic, however, is not required to stop so please stay alert to your surroundings.

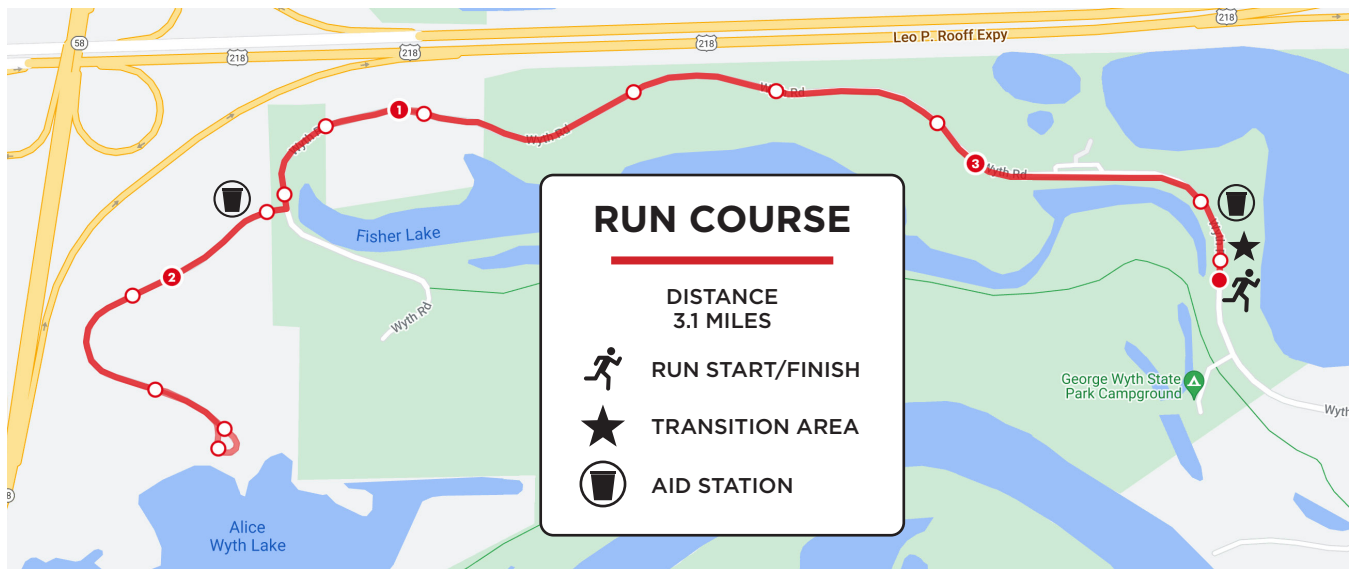
RUN COURSE



EVENT INFORMATION

RUN 5K

The Run Course is a simple out-and-back route on park roads through George Wyth State Park. Starting at the Transition Area, athletes will turn right onto Wyth Road, turn right again onto Alice Road, and continue on until the turnaround. Then retrace your steps back to the Finish Line area. There will be three aid stations along the course with water and sports drinks. Please note that park roads will be open to public vehicle traffic so please stay alert to your surroundings.



ELEVATION: FLAT

Start Elevation: 853 FT

Max Elevation: 857 FT

RACE DAY GEAR CHECKLIST

Swim:

- ☐ Timing chip
- ☐ Swim Cap
- ☐ Goggles
- ☐ Tri-suit
- ☐ Wet suit
- ☐ Watch
- ☐ HR Monitor
- ☐ Body Glide
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Anti-Fog Solution
- ☐ Ear Plugs

Bike:

- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Bike Shoes
- ☐ Helmet
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Race #'s on Bike & Helmet
- ☐ 2 Water Bottles (Filled)
- ☐ Spare Tube
- ☐ CO₂ Cartridge or Hand Pump
- ☐ Nutrition
- ☐ Socks

Run:

- ☐ Running Shoes
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Race Belt & Bib number
- ☐ Hat or Visor
- ☐ Run Nutrition

Post Race:

- ☐ Extra Clothes
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Recovery Drink
- ☐ Sandals



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RACE DAY

COMMONLY VIOLATED RULES

- 1. HELMETS:** Helmets must be worn at all times while on your bike. DO NOT unbuckle your chin strap unless you are off your bicycle. Always have your chinstrap securely fastened (before, during and after the event).
- 2. UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE:** No assistance other than that offered by race and medical officials may be used. Triathlons and duathlons are individual tests of fitness.
- 3. TRANSITION AREA:** All equipment must be placed in the properly designated and individually assigned bike corral. The wheel of the bicycle must be down on the side of the assigned space. All participants must return their bicycles to an upright position in their designated bicycle corral. No person shall interfere with another participant's equipment or impede the progress of another participant. All bar ends must be solidly plugged. No participant shall bring ANY glass containers into the transition area.
- 4. DRAFTING:** Keep at least three bike lengths of clear space between you and the cyclist in front. If you move into the zone, you must pass within 15 seconds.
 - **Position:** Keep to the right hand side of the lane of travel unless passing.
 - **Illegal Pass:** Cyclists must pass on the left, not on the right.
 - **Blocking:** Riding on the left side of the lane without passing anyone and impeding other cyclists attempting to pass.
 - **Overtaken:** Once passed, you must immediately exit the draft zone from the rear, before attempting to pass again.
- 5. COURSE:** All competitors are required to follow the prescribed course and to stay within all coned lanes. Cutting the course is an obvious violation and going outside the course is a safety issue. Cyclists shall not cross a solid yellow center line. Cyclists must obey all applicable traffic laws at all times.
- 6. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** Foul, harsh, argumentative or abusive language or other unsportsmanlike conduct directed at race officials, volunteers, spectators or fellow athletes is forbidden.
- 7. HEADPHONES AND TELEPHONES:** Headphones, headsets, Walkman's, iPod, mp3 players, or personal audio devices, etc. are not to be carried or worn at any time during the race. Telephones may be carried, but must be stored out of sight, and in the "off" position. A participant may only use the phone when dismounted, off course, and not making forward progress.
- 8. RACE NUMBERS:** All athletes are required to wear race numbers at all times during the run. Numbers must be clearly visible at all times. Numbers may not be altered in any way that prevents a clear identification. DO NOT transfer your number to any other athlete or take a number from an athlete that is not competing.
- 9. ABANDONMENT:** All personal equipment and belongings taken out onto the course must stay on the athlete the entire time. No garbage, clothing, etc. shall be thrown on the course.
- 10. WETSUITS:** Permitted without penalty in water temperature of 78 and under for age group athletes.

*For a complete list of rules, please refer to USA Triathlon Competitive Rules at:
<http://www.usatriathlon.org/about-multisport/rulebook.aspx>*

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Congratulations on your finish!

See you next year!

