

Experience one of the flattest and (sometimes) muddiest trail races that Pretzel City Sports holds; the 25th Annual

EVANSBURG CHALLENGE

15K Trail Race & 7.3K Trail Race/Walk

Sun., October 22, 2023 – 10 A.M.

Evansburg State Park - near Collegeville, PA

Park Address: 851 May Hall Rd, Collegeville, PA 19426

15K is a Point Scoring Run in the Mid-Atlantic USA Track & Field Off-Road Series

NEW FOR 2023: NEW 2ND HALF OF COURSE, NEW DISTANCE, FLATTER & FASTER WITH NO CREEK CROSSINGS!

One of the most controversial subjects future humans will deal with is the continuing injection of “artificial intelligence” into our lives; or “AI” as it’s known by many. This is NOT to be confused with the “intelligence” that many politicians claim to have; post election, they demonstrate that it is nothing MORE than “artificial”. And it’s not the “smarts” that your brother-in-law touts after getting his degree “online”. Nor should it be confused with Allen Iverson, the “AI” that played for the Sixers years ago (maybe the best hoops player ever per “linear inch” of height, in our humble opinion). No, it is computer-manipulated knowledge mimicking the efforts of humans. Already, AI has composed highly-popular rap songs using the voices of existing human performers such as Drake (not all THAT big an achievement!), written TV/movie scripts based on a scant outline provided to it (again, how hard could it be to write the plot and dialogue for “Fast & Furious-Part 8- Never Heard the Tesla Coming”) and it’s authoring speeches for real humans to present as their own thoughts. How long will it be before AI starts writing really yummy-yet-lowfat recipes, devises ways to rip off your bank account and starts calling in to right wing talk shows to bitch about schools letting people graduate without having to learn to write “code”. Yet, 25 years ago, in its infancy, AI was given the task to come up with a perfect “entry-level” trail run that also interested the Type-A’s and amazingly, it spit out the Evansburg Challenge. Obviously, THIS is what happens when a race is created by a “superior intellect”. The Evansburg Challenge is NOT a race where you have to attend “Outward Bound” for 3 weeks just to survive it or where you have to run with a compass/map/shepa/splint in order to get back alive. Instead, it is the “Normal People’s Trail Race”(well, we “hedge” on the term “normal”); a low to medium difficult trail run in a beautiful state park not far from Philly. Will the Type-A Nutjobs be bored? There is plenty there to interest them; they’ll just run faster than they do in those other “torture tests” that some call trail runs. But this is ALSO a great race for entry-to-casual level trail runners & walkers that go to Starbucks Drive-thru EVERY time rather than walk the laborious 35 feet to its inside counter. In fact, it even has a shorter 7.3k event with awards for those that are not up to the 15k distance or run/walk at a more casual pace than most (everyone starts together and no one declares a distance in advance-but you MUST reach the 7.3k in under 1 hr, 5 minutes to be allowed to go on). This is a GREAT race for those that have always wanted to try trail running but value all or most of their body parts. In fact, many people consider this a “road racer’s” trail run because those that throw a little caution to the wind can FLY on this course!! So, whether you’re a “Gonzo” or a “Give It a Try” er, come join us for the 25th running of what has become one of the most popular trail runs in Eastern PA! **WARNING: YOU RACE AT YOUR OWN RISK & are SOLEY responsible for yourself at all times.** Bug bites & skinned knees happen all the time to trail run entries. No sweat, keep running, you’ll heal eventually! But if you do a mega-faceplant, try to crawl to the next water stop so we can drive you back via fossil fuel. Now, if you land facefirst into one of the HUNDREDS of horse paddys on the course, you MUST wash up before getting into our car. Thanks for understanding! Also, 15k’s are no “walk in the mall” so entry for those under 16 is not encouraged for the 15k; enter the 7.3k instead. Our regrets but the trail is FAR too rutted/bumpy for baby joggers, roller blades, ice skates, hoverboards and constant/loud whiners. Your spouse has to put up with that crap; WE don’t!

Due to the slight chance of a state limit on entries by raceday if a new Covid variant appears, online registration is mandatory. Raceday entry is highly probable but you must enter online until then, so that entry can be closed on a moment's notice, if need be.

<https://www.pretzelcitysports.com/online-registration/>

Open until midnight on the Wed of race week. Nominal service fee applies.

WARNING: Again, any entry not reaching the 7.3k point in 1 hr, 5 minutes MUST finish in the shorter race, regardless of the event they planned to do. Going past this spot is probably a bit more demanding than you can handle plus we'll begin taking down the course past the 7.3k mark at 1 hr, 5 minutes into the race to ensure the safety of all. We'd rather everyone finish healthy than risk the problems that occur when someone tries to exceed their level of fitness. **ONLY** people finishing in the 15k will earn USA T & F Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Series points. While there are awards for the 7.3k, those finishers do NOT earn such points

Entry: Race starts at 10 A.M.; registration in Park at the small Pavilion near the bathrooms from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45. No mailing of shirts or awards; no refunds. Race goes on rain or shine; (may delay race start if "lightening"). Minimum age of 16 years old suggested for those running the 15k. **NOTE: MANY OF OUR REGISTRATION FOLKS ALSO HELP AT REMOTE SPOTS ON THE COURSE. TO GET THEM TO THESE SPOTS ON TIME, IT'S CRUCIAL THAT RUNNERS BE REGISTERED BY 9:45!!**

Fee: \$38 WITH shirt OR \$33 WITHOUT a unisex tech shirt if entered by Thurs, Oct 5th. Afterwards, including raceday, \$43 WITH shirt and \$38 with NO shirt or when they run out. (VERY limited number of extra shirts will be printed so if you don't want to be shut out of a shirt, pre-enter even if it's after the cutoff date!!)

Other Reasons to Enter: 3 water stops on 15k course, 1 on 7.3k. Results posted at www.pretzelcitysports.com the next business day after race, instant results posted at race, digital clock at race finish, modern bathrooms, covered pavilion, post-race food, a well-marked trail, a fair amount of nearby parking AND the 15k scores you points in the USA T & F Mid-Atlantic Off-Road series. Race priced to reduce your racing fee if you value another shirt about as much as you value most of the people running for office today.

Awards: **15k:** 1st and 2nd Overall Male and Female Plus: 0-29: 4M, 4F 30-39: 5M, 5F
40-49: 5M, 5F 50-59: 5M, 5F 60-67: 4M, 3F 68+: 3M, 2F Clydesdales: 3M, 3F

7K: 1st Overall Male and Female Plus: 0-29: 3M, 3F 30-39: 3M, 3F 40-49: 3M, 3F 50-59:
3M, 3F 60-67: 3M, 3F 68+: 3M, 2F Clydesdales: 2M, 2F

Clydesdale Weight Minimums for both events: Men: minimum of 210 lbs. or 190 if 5 ft., 9 inches tall or less. Women: minimum of 165 lbs., 145 if 5 ft., 4 inches tall or less. Honor system, no scale on site.

Directions to Park: Use address of 851 May Hall Rd, Collegeville, PA in your GPS. Park is just off Germantown Pike about 2.5 miles east of Collegeville. If parking on the grass, PLEASE do so only on sections where you are instructed to do so by the park staff.

Challenged Head: Ron Horn, rhornpcs@aol.com (preferred means of contact) or 610-779-2668 day or night (just not during an Eagles game), www.pretzelcitysports.com

Insurance Provided by R.R.C.A

Our thanks to the great staff of Evansburg State Park for their assistance with this event over the past 2+ decades!