

Experience one of the flattest and (sometimes) muddiest trail races that Pretzel City Sports holds; the 27th Annual

EVANSBURG CHALLENGE

14K Trail Race & 6.5K Trail Race/Walk

Sun., October 12, 2025 – 10 A.M.

Evansburg State Park - near Collegeville, PA

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

14K is a Point Scoring Run in the Mid-Atlantic USA Track & Field Off-Road Series

Many areas of the world possess “products of nature” that the rest of the world cherishes & seeks out. Who hasn’t had a nice, refreshing bottle of Fiji water? And the finest chefs in the world wouldn’t think of cooking certain meals without the truffles that grow primarily in northern Italy. They feel the same way about the albacore that swims just off the West coast of the U. S and the tomato pies that grows wild in the kitchens of Italian homes in Conshohocken. The Evansburg State Park Mud is another “product of nature” that you just can’t find anywhere else. With the trails being used for decades by the stables that surround the park, this terra-not-so-firma has become a mixture of dirt, rotting vegetation, grit and pony-poo. And it SEEMS to have magical powers. Where else can you end up being sucked into 8-12 inches deep in mud and still have a huge smile on your face? Where else can your running shoes pick up an odor that will withstand 27 washings? Where else can you find trails in Pennsylvania with only a MINISCULE amount of rocks, roots & ruts? ONLY in Evansburg Park and ONLY in our annual Evansburg Challenge Trail Runs. The Evansburg Challenge continues to provide a wonderful chance for grownups to cavort in the mud, chase their friends around and run thru the woods with hardly any clothes on. LEGALLY! This park’s rustic trails take you past great fall scenery yet they’re flat, have almost no rocks and you pass the finish line at 4.6 miles, where you can peel off and finish in the shorter event JUST in case if you’ve bitten off more than you can chew. And yet, its flat, non-technical & beautiful trails plus its closeness to Philly helps it attract some of the best & most gonzo “trailers” in the region. It has enough crazy stuff on the course that the Type-A’s won’t be bored. And yet, it is doable for those who can’t go more than 3 days without a pack of Tandy Takes, even though they are 25% smaller and twice as costly as they were when TastyTake was based in Philly. Since the park has very few rises, its trails are some of the most runnable in the East. That is, UNLESS it rains anytime near the race. Then, you too will know the amazing and, even more so, MEMORABLE powers of the Mud that resides in Evansburg State Park! **WARNING: YOU RACE AT YOUR OWN RISK & are SOLEY responsible for yourself at all times.** Our trails are fairly clean but not ‘oaf proof’. If you “ding a wing”, “rankle an ankle” or “lose a lung”, hobble to the next aide station so we can get you back via fossil fuel. And if you end up in Norristown or a NovaCare facility, be sure that you’ll be “missed”; not “looked for”, just “missed”. Although this isn’t a hard race, it’s still a 14k, so entry in the longer race is discouraged (but not forbidden) for those under 16. Others that should pass up this race are those that expect their sneakers to “look like new” for the next 5 years, anyone who naively thinks that the Phillies have enough talent to win the World Series this year & anyone who thinks that “leaves” are the only things that “fall” in the woods during a Fall trail race.

Online registration ONLY so that we have a central source of emails to use for contacting people in the case of a postponement or to facilitate the distribution of pre-race instructions

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

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

WARNING: Any entry not reaching the 6.5k point in 1 hr. and 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 6.5k 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 14k will earn USA T & F Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Series points. While there are awards for the 6.5k, 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 9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. 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 14k. **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 9:50!! ALSO, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE RUN FAST IF THE EAGLES ARE ON AT 1 P.M. THAT AFTERNOON!**

Fee: \$40 WITH a short sleeve cotton shirt OR \$35 WITHOUT a shirt if entered by Mon, Sept 29. Afterwards, including raceday, \$45 WITH shirt and \$40 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 14k course, 1 on 6.5k. Instant results posted at race. results posted at www.pretzelcitysports.com the next business day after 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 14k scores you points in the USA T & F Mid-Atlantic Off-Road series. Also, no waiting around! The 6.5K awards ceremony will be held before the 14k'ers are done. First portion of the race is somewhat spectator friendly. Race is priced to reduce your entry fee if you value another shirt about as much as you value the "current" music being played on most radio stations. WHAT CRAP!.

Awards: **14K:** 1st and 2nd Overall Male and Female Plus: 0-29: 4M, 4F 30-39: 4M, 4F
40-49: 4M, 4F 50-59: 4M, 4F 60-69: 4M, 4F 70+: 4M, 2F Clydesdales: 3M, 3F
6.5K: 1st Overall Male and Female Plus: 0-29: 3M, 3F 30-39: 3M, 3F 40-49:
3M, 3F 50-59: 3M, 3F 60-69: 3M, 3F 70+: 3M, 3F Clydesdales: 3M, 3F

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

PLEASE NOTE: The course has been measured with a bike odometer calibrated on a 1 mile road course measured to the foot with a surveyors wheel. This was done to verify the exact length of the course. GPS watches, strava software, map my run, etc were NOT used since GPS readings made in the woods vary a LOT from watch to watch plus GPS readings in heavily wooded areas have been proven to be inaccurate and only "broad approximations" at best.

Directions to Park: Put 851 May Hall Rd, Collegeville, PA in your GPS. Park is just off Germantown Pike about 2.5 miles east of Collegeville. **DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS WHEN HERE UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY A PARK RANGER. THEY WILL TICKET YOU!**

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

Our thanks to the great staff of Evansburg State Park for their assistance with this event for nearly 3 decades!