

Experience one of the flattest and (sometimes) muddiest trail races that Pretzel City Sports holds; the 28th Annual

EVANSBURG CHALLENGE

14K Trail Race & 6.5K Trail Race/Walk

Sun., October 11, 2026 – 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

Pennsylvania's state park system is one of the best of the nation. Its wonderful parks include such attractions as boating, swimming, cabins, camping spots, yurts, frisbee golf, ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts; you name it! Sadly, Evansburg State Park has none of these! Not a single one! What it DOES have, however, are some of the prettiest and least technical trails in the East, all just a "Kyle Schwarber home run" length from the 6th largest city in the US. Now in its 28th year, the Evansburg Challenge is one of the most popular trail runs in Eastern PA. It is also one of the most runnable ones too! It has enough technical aspects to keep the Type A's happy and yet is easy enough for those that always wanted to try a trail run but thought it was tougher to get through than a season of The Bachelor or Bachelorette. It has small dips and rises, no "climbs" of any consequence, fairly wide and easy trails, gorgeous early-Fall colors, 3 water stops for the 14k (1 for the 6.5k) lots of awards, decent post race grub and just a TON of things that make it as popular as it is. And its 2 distances are so unique that you're almost guaranteed to run a Personal Best (since you probably never raced these distances before unless you did this race in the past). Whether you're a "Gonzo" or a "Give It a Try-er", it's time to see why, for the past 27 years, people have veered off the Germantown Pike to run a little bit of heaven right in the middle of Montgomery County. **WARNING: YOU RACE AT YOUR OWN RISK & are SOLEY responsible for yourself at all times.** If you trip over a "stump" and get a 'bump', limp to the next aide station, cause we don't have a mule train out there to get you out. And if you get lost or eventually end up in Norristown, be sure that you'll be missed; not "looked for", just "missed". This race is no "walk in the park" (well, some people DO walk the 6.5K) so entry for the race is closed to those under 14 unless accompanied by an adult runner (pertains to 14k only), anyone who thinks "You Tube" is a personalized type of flotation device and anyone who thinks that "leaves" are the only things that "fall" in the woods during a Fall trail race. 'Cause a few of you will!

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.

Raceday signup available too but only cash or check is accepted on raceday due to the uncertainty of an internet connection in most state parks. Also, on raceday, shirt availability in all sizes is doubtful.

WARNING: Any entry not reaching the 6.5k point in 1 hr. 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 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 14 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 JUST IN CASE THE EAGLES PLAY AT 1 P.M. THAT AFTERNOON!**

Fee: \$40 WITH a unisex shirt OR \$35 WITHOUT a shirt if entered by Mon, Sept 28. 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. Race priced to save you \$\$'s if you value another shirt about as much as you value the calls you get both day and night trying to sell you home repairs, changes to your medical insurance, a new electric provider, etc.

Awards: **14K:** 1st and 2nd Overall Male and Female Plus: 0-39: 6M, 6F 40-49: 4M, 4F
50-59: 4M, 4F 60-69: 4M, 4F (top F age group is 60+) 70+: 4M 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 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 are 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!