

2026 Bear Mountain Trail Challenge - Half Marathon

Start/Finish: Palisades Interstate Pkwy, Exit 17, Bear Mountain, NY 10911 [Google Maps](#)

All times expressed on this guide are shown on local time zone - Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

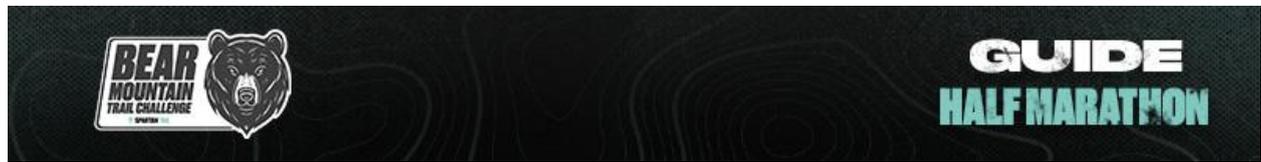
Start Time: Saturday, May 2nd 8:00am | **Official Finish Time:** Saturday, May 2nd, 5:00pm

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Bear Mountain Trail Challenge! We are excited to have you racing with us and for you to see the stunning course we have installed for you this year.

Your safety is our first and highest priority. Please review this document in full to ensure your full understanding and compliance to the rules and policies as specified.

Race Day Schedule

Saturday, May 2, 2026 6:00am - 7:50am	Packet Pickup	Anthony Wayne Recreation Area Runners are encouraged to arrive early. Leave plenty of time to check in and warm up.
Saturday, May 2, 2026 8:00am	Race Start	
Saturday, May 2, 2026 5:00pm	Course Cutoff	Racers must be able to complete the Half Marathon in 9 hours.



Race Packet Pick-up & Registration

Packet pickup will be available race morning from 6:00 am to 7:50 am at the start/finish line at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area.

Requirements:

- ID/Passport, with name matching your registration
- Race packets must be picked up by the runner

Race packet includes:

- **Runner BIB** is mandatory for all race distances.
- **Chip Timing Tag and holding wristband** mandatory for all race distances.
- **Swag:** Sponsors discounts, product samples

If there are still spots available, on-site registration is available during Saturday's packet pick-up. Registration will be cashless – only credit cards will be accepted.

Parking

Ample parking for participants and spectators will be available at the start/finish area at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area. It's a large parking lot, so please arrive early enough to leave time for a short walk to the registration area. **NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING IS ALLOWED.**

Course Information

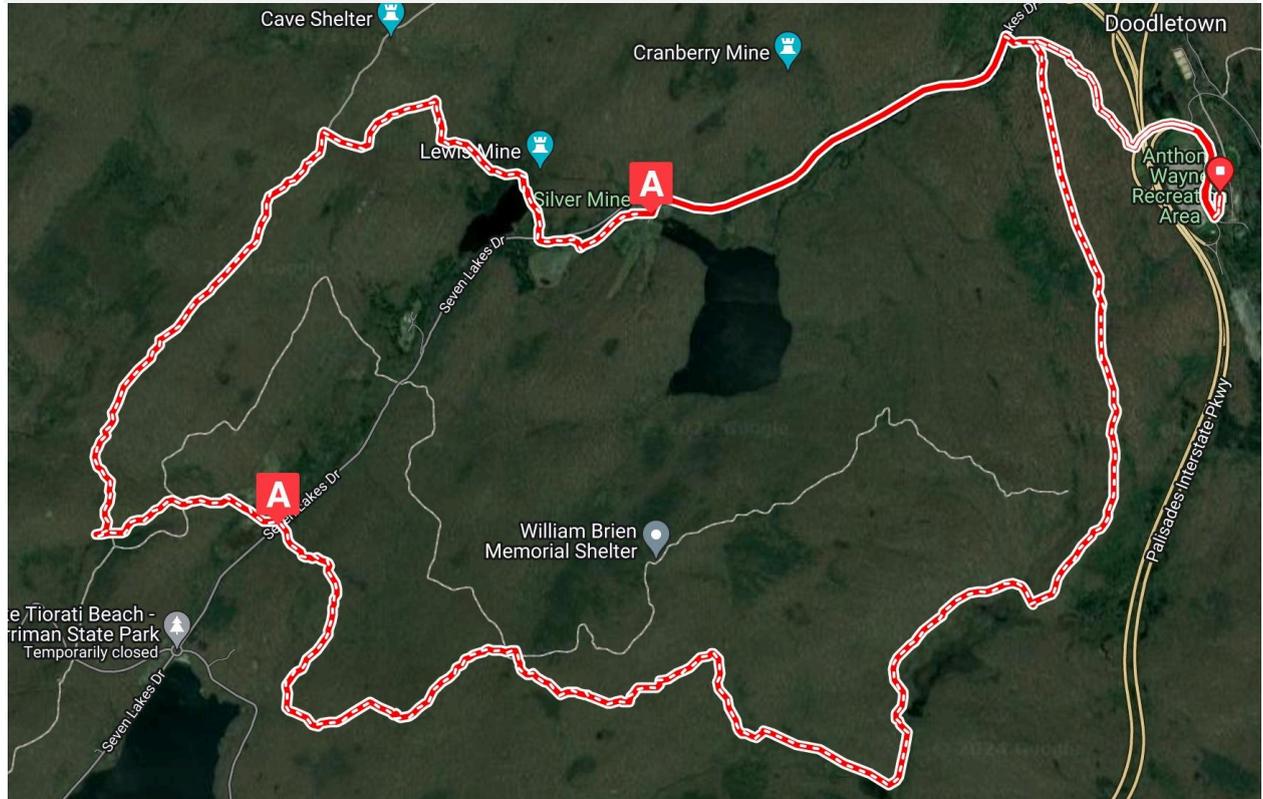
- COURSE IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS LEADING TO RACE DATE -

Bear Mountain experienced severe flooding and trail damage in the summer of 2023. As a result, many of the trails we used in our first year were destroyed and have not yet been repaired. All courses in 2026 are tentatively the same as the 2025 event, which is substantially different from our 2023 event, and are continually changing as the conditions change at Bear Mountain. All courses should be considered tentative until race day, and participants should follow course marking rather than any downloaded maps.



GUIDE HALF MARATHON

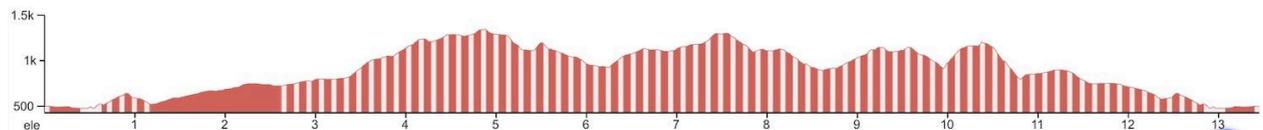
Course Map



You can navigate the interactive race map at our official website [here](#).

Elevation Chart

The Half Marathon course will see a net gain/loss of 2,053'





Aid Stations and Cutoffs

Half Marathon runners have the same 5:00pm cutoff as the 50k runners. This should be ample time (9 hours) to complete the course, but in the case that runners are clearly not on pace to do so, the race director may institute an intermediate cutoff at an aid station.

Aid	Distance (mi)	Crew/Spectators
Start	0	Yes
Silver Mine	2.4	Yes
Ramapo-Dunderberg	6.2	No
Finish	13.4	Yes

Aid Station Offerings and Finish Line Food

Aid stations will provide a variety of nutrition options, including Chargel energy gels, Hyk Energy hydration products, water, stroopwafels, salty snacks (chips), bars, fruit (bananas and oranges), nuts, and candy. Due to park regulations we will not be offering hot items.

There will be a food truck at the finish line with hot food for purchase. Participants with specific dietary restrictions should not rely on the food truck being able to accommodate their needs.

Results and Prizes

Results will be available on the Spartan website and the Spartan Trail website after the race, and we will have a link available onsite to see live results via My Race Result (my.raceresult.com)

Overall Prizes: The top three men and women overall in each distance will receive a pair of New Balance Hierro trail shoes, as well as a podium award.

Age Group Prizes: The top three men and women in each of the following age groups for each distance will receive an age group medal: 19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+. The top three overall finishers will be removed from age group award contention.

Due to the number of registrations and the need for multiple heats, results will be determined based on chip time, not gun time.

Mandatory Equipment

- **Bib number** must be visible from the front during the entire race. Staff along the race course MUST be able to read the number clearly.
- **Chip timing tag** must be worn for the duration of the race.
- **500ml (or 16 oz) water carrying capacity**



Recommended Equipment

Some additional gear to consider:

- Waist pack or backpack with hydration system. Participants must carry and dispose of their trash at aid stations. **Any runners caught littering will be subject to immediate disqualification.**
- Waterproof breathable warm gloves. Early morning temperatures can be cold.
- Breathable warm jacket to protect you from low temperatures
- Running shoes with rugged traction
- Trekking poles are allowed.
- Short running gaiters to keep debris out is a great way to prevent blisters
- Multifunctional neck gaiter or buff which can double as a head cover during cooler temps
- Sunscreen
- Running hat and/or visor
- Eyewear: keep in mind that the race course goes through dark forest areas and sunny open lands so proper eyewear is recommended
- Warm and dry clothes at the start/finish bag check

Drop Policy

If it turns out not to be your day and you are unable to complete the race, **you may drop at the nearest aid station by surrendering your race bib to the aid station captain.** Transportation will be provided to transfer you back to the finish line.

We have taken extensive measures to account for all runners that are on course and those dropped from the race. Course Marshals or any other staff/volunteer members other than the aid station captains are **NOT** authorized to record any dropped participants.

***** DO NOT exit the course without notifying our staff if you decided to drop. Failure to do so may result in dispatching search and rescue personnel to locate you. You will be responsible for such expenses. *****

Crew

Crew access to the course is limited. Most of our aid stations for all distances have no parking available, and spectators may have their runners disqualified if they attempt to watch or crew from any of these unapproved locations. The only aid station accessible by spectators and crew is Silver Mine - mile 2.4.

Silver Mine aid station is located in the parking lot at the northwest corner of Silver Mine Lake.

Link to Silver Mine aid: [Google Maps](#)

Pacers are not allowed.

Bag Check

Bag check will be available at the start/finish. Checked bags will be held at the start/finish at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area. There will be no drop bags available on course.



Clean Race Policy

Our race will take place in Bear Mountain and Harriman State Parks. One of the key factors for success is maintaining the magnificent scenery surrounding the race. Local residents, tourists and all users are responsible for preserving this place. For this reason, ***littering along the race course is grounds for immediate disqualification***. It is our responsibility to have a clean race.

Trash and recycling receptacles are available at all aid stations.

Contact Information

Our team is here to ensure you have the best race experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please use our website, <https://www.spartantrail.com/bear-mountain-trail-challenge/>, or contact us by email trail@spartan.com.



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