



**-2024-**

# **THUNDERBUNNY TRAIL RACES PARTICIPANT GUIDE**

Updated on 4/22/202



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# Thunderbunny Weekend Schedule

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## Friday May 12

3:00 - 7:00PM - Packet Pickup	Ohio Valley Running Company
5:30PM - On Shoe Demo and Group Run	Ohio Valley Running Company
6:00-7:00PM - Food/Drink Social Hangout	Ohio Valley Running Company
7:00PM - Showing of Trail Running Film " #17 - To Finish The Barkley Marathons"	Ohio Valley Running Company

## Saturday May 13

6:00 - 7:30AM - Packet Pickup	Strouds Run Campground
8:00AM - 50K and 25K Races Start	Strouds Run Campground
9:00AM - 11K Race Start	Strouds Run Campground
10:00AM - Est. First Finisher, Post Race Celebration!	Strouds Run Campground
5:00PM - 50K Course Cutoff and Event Close	Strouds Run Campground

\*awards will be presented during the events once all the award winners have finished.

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## Packet Pickup.

We encourage everyone to pick up their "race packet" early! It will make your morning, and ours, easier when it's your day to race! We also have some fun Friday activities planned this year for the Friday evening packet pickup time.

## Friday

3:00PM - 7:00 PM @ Ohio Valley Running Company

Ohio Valley Running Company  
20 Station Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701

## Saturday

6:00AM - 7:30AM @ Strouds Run State Park Campground

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## Pre-Race Briefings.

On race day we will have a short pre-race briefing/meeting 15 minutes before the start - be around the start line for this!

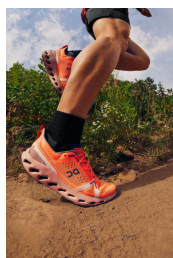
# Friday Shoe Demo, Food/Drink Hangout and Film Showing.

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We're excited to offer some fun activities on Friday evening, in conjunction with the Packet Pick-up time. All of these events will be held at Ohio Valley Running Company (20 Station Street, Athens, OH 45701)

## On Shoe Demo and Group Run - 5:30PM

Join other Thunderbunny and community runners at 5:30PM we'll be doing a 3 Mile Shakeout Group Run, with a chance to try out some On shoes! On will be the CloudSurfer Trail to try out, along with a couple other models of shoes.



## Social Hangout with Food and Drinks - 6:00PM

Stick around after the Group Demo Run, and before the Film Showing and there will be some light finger foods (fruits, veggies, drips type fare). Hang out with other Thunderbunny runners and talk shop before the movie starts.



## Film Showing - 7:00PM

We'll be showing the film "#17 - To Finish The Barkley Marathon" about Karel Sabbe becoming the 1th finisher of the infamous Barkley Marathons.

The film showing is FREE to attend!

***There is limited space and seating availability, so please use this form to RSVP! We'll turn off this signup form once we reach capacity. There will be a capacity of 60 seats.***

**[RSVP YOUR SEAT AT THE FILM SHOWING - CLICK HERE!](#)**



## Celebration and Swag

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### Awards and Swag.

#### Thunderbunny Shirts

All participants will receive a technical t-shirt with a Thunderbunny design printed on it

#### Finishers Award

50K and 25K runners will receive a locally crafted wooden “finishers medal” upon crossing the finish line! This will go along nicely for past finishers who have received pint glasses. Do not run off too fast once crossing the line so our volunteer can give your well-deserved finishers award.

#### Category Awards

If you happen to be one of our overall or age group award winners we will be announcing the awards during the race. Your award will be a custom made “Thunderbunny” wood cutout from local company Red Tail Design!

To view a list of award categories, you can view them on the [RACE DETAILS PAGE](#).

#### On Swag

Along with the Thunderbunny awards, we also have some awesome On Running Packs and Hats that will go to top finishers in each race!



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## Post Race Celebration, sponsored by On.



We have an awesome post-race celebration planned during the races at Thunderbunny! Everyone is encouraged to stick around, hang out, and invite your family and friends to celebrate the Thunderbunny Trail Races! Here is what's on tap:

**Pizza and Food:** After the race we'll have pizza supplied to all the 50K and 25K runners.

\*50K and 25K runners get pizza after the race for free as part of their registration. Spectators/Family can purchase a Meal Ticket on race day for \$6. If you are a runner and would like to purchase an extra ticket for your crew/family, you can click the "Store" tab on the Thunderbunny UltraSignup registration page to do so. Cash and cards are accepted on race day.

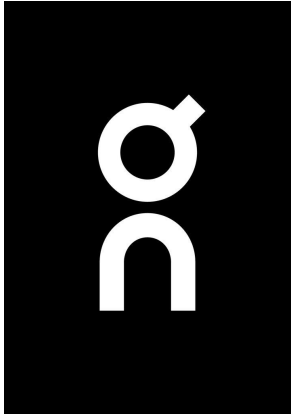
**On Shoe Demos:** On will be at Thunderbunny all weekend, set up with shoes that participants and spectators can try out! They'll have several models of shoes, and you can see what they're all about.

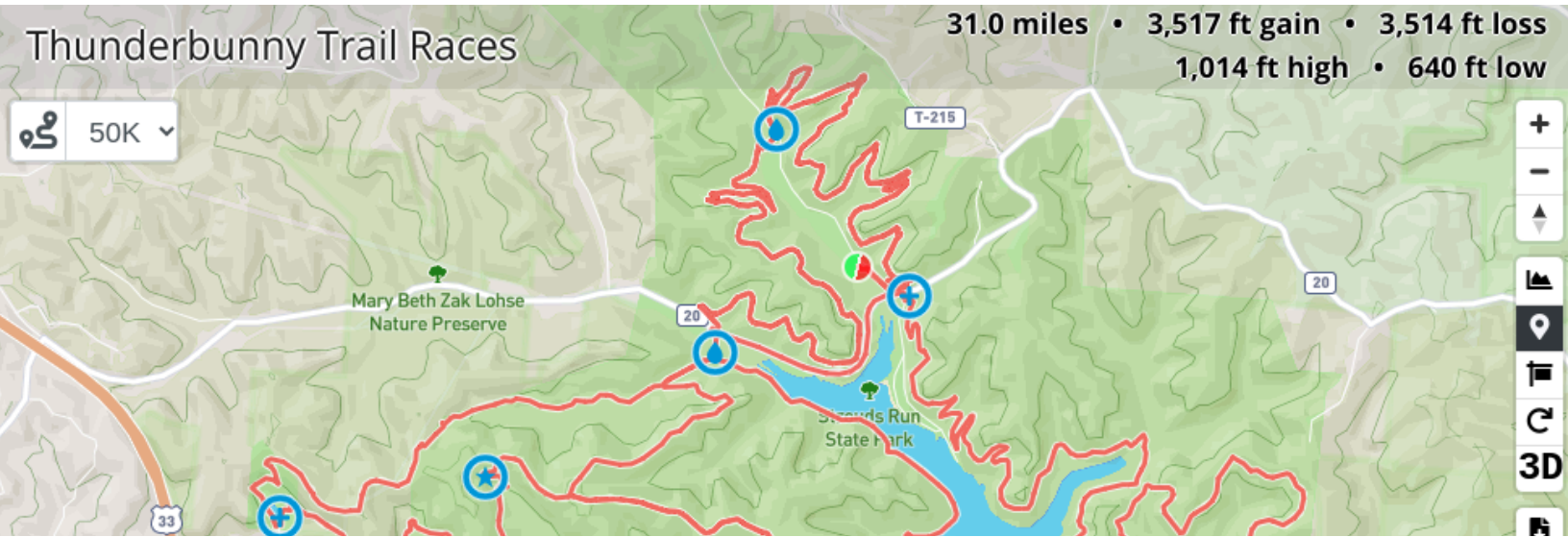
**On Finisher Posters:** Celebrate your finish with an awesome Thunderbunny keepsake!

**Photo Area:** There will be a photo area with a Thunderbunny backdrop! Get a pic with your finisher's medal, and with your running partners!

# Sponsors

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## Course Information

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### Course Breakdown.

Please view the comprehensive course maps and details on [THE COURSE PAGE ON THE WEBSITE.](#)

Important course items on the website:

- Interactive course maps with elevation profile'
- Aid Station charts
- Downloadable GPX Files (great for watches that support route imports!)
- Links to Strava Routes of each course (great for saving onto phone and following!)

### Course Markings.

We will ensure a properly marked course that will give you the best chance to stay on course!

There will be several ways we mark the course:

- **Pink "pin flags"** (in ground) will be placed regularly along the route. These flags will be **on the right side of the trail** at all times (with the exception of any out and back sections).
- Arrows posted on signs will be placed at key intersections.
- **Red "Wrong Way"** signs will be placed to indicate where not to go.
- At very busy and key intersections, there may be a person directing traffic.
- Where a course splits (eg. 25K and 50K split), there will be signs that say the race distance with an arrow pointing in the proper direction.

The moral of the story is to pay attention at all times to the course markings. Sometimes runners zone out, or are going too fast, and miss a turn.... whenever there is a key intersection or confluence of trails, it is best to take a moment to slow down making sure you know which way to turn.

We'll also make every effort to check course markings before races start, and during the race, to make sure course markings have stayed intact and not tampered with or removed.



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## Aid Stations.

Study the course map, aid station charts, and learn where the “FULL” and “WATER ONLY” stations are. See the difference below and what each station will have:

Tailwind Nutrition is the official endurance fuel sponsor of SEOTR Events and Thunderbunny! Each serving of Tailwind has 200 calories and supplies you with needed amino acids and electrolytes. The Tailwind at our aid stations will be non-caffeinated.

**FULL Aid Stations:** Full aid stations will have water, hydration mix, ice, soda, an array of salty foods, an array of sweet foods, fruits (eg. watermelon, etc.), and some real foods (eg potatoes/salt, etc.).

At full aid stations we will also have items like, first aid, vaseline, hand sanitizer, and more.

**WATER/LIQUIDS ONLY Aid Stations:** Aid stations listed as “liquids only” will have water and Tailwind Nutrition.

**Cups:** While we are not a fully “cupless race” we encourage all runners to carry a bottle or a collapsible cup with them to limit our waste of single-use paper cups, especially those runners in the 50K!



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## Aid Station Charts.

50K

Aid Station Name	Mile	Section	Aid Type	Crew Access	Drop Bag	Cutoff*	4 Hour Splits	9 Hour Splits
Start	0	0	n/a	Yes	No	None	0:00:00	0:00:00
Hollow Point Entrance 1	3.7	3.7	Liquids Only	No	No	None	0:28:33	1:04:02
Sundown	6.8	3.1	Full	Yes	No	None	0:58:24	2:11:01
Dow Lake Dam	13.04	6.24	Full	Yes	Yes	4:15:00	1:30:00	3:45:41
Gillette Junction 1	15.81	2.77	Liquids Only	No	No	4:55:00	2:01:59	4:33:38
Hope Drive	18.53	2.72	Full	Yes	No	5:45:00	2:22:59	5:20:42
Sells Park	22.92	4.39	Full	Yes	Yes	6:55:00	2:56:51	6:36:41
Gillette Junction 2	25.14	2.22	Liquids Only	No	No	7:30:00	3:13:59	7:15:00
Hollow Point Entrance 2	27.95	2.81	Liquids Only	No	No	None	3:35:40	8:03:45
Finish	31.2	3.25	n/a	Yes	No	9:00:00	4:00:00	9:00:00

## 25K

Aid Station Name	Mile	Section	Aid Type	Crew Access	Drop Bag	Cutoff*	2 Hour Splits	5 Hours Splits
Start	0	0	n/a	Yes	No	None	0:00:00	0:00:00
Hollow Point Entrance 1	3.7	3.7	Liquids Only	No	No	None	0:25:57	1:04:54
Sundown	6.8	3.1	Full	Yes	No	None	0:53:07	2:12:48
Dow Lake Dam	13.04	6.24	Full	Yes	Yes	4:15:00**	1:31:30	3:48:46
Gillette Junction 1	15.81	2.77	Liquids Only	No	No	7:30:00**	1:50:56	4:37:22
Finish	17.1	1.29	n/a	Yes	No	9:00:00**	2:00:00	5:00:00

The 11K will have a liquid station at the 3.7 mile mark.

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### Drop Bags.

There are two drop bag locations outlined on the aid station chart. You can drop off your drop bags the morning of the race at the start line.

Dow Lake Aid Station, Mile 13.03 (50K and 25K runners)

Sells Park Aid Station, Mile 22.92 (50K runners)

Label bags with duct tape and sharpie, or in some form with Last Name, Bib #, AS Location. Drop bags will be out in the open so make sure they are able to withstand water or put belongings in plastic bags. No abnormally large bags - keep drop bags the size of a small backpack, cinch bag, or gallon ziploc bag).

If you want to have a drop bag for both locations, you will need two different drop bags. Drop Bags will be delivered back to the finish line once the Aid Station closes, breaks down, and the crew returns back to the finish line.

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### Cutoff Times.

This is one of the hardest things as a Race Director and aid station worker; however, we must enforce our cutoffs. Please be respectful if an aid station worker pulls you from the race. You will be given the option of continuing but you must realize that it is on your own after that point. We prefer that you take a ride back to the finish line if you don't make a cut off.

Please see the aid station charts on the 25K and 50K "Course Description" pages for cutoff times. Please be familiar with these times or write them down to run with so you know what to expect.

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### Turtlehead Cave Bib Punch.

We have added a short add-on for 50K runners between miles 22 and 23 that takes you into Turtlehead Cave off the Rockhouse Trail. This only adds on 2/10 of a mile but it brings you into an awesome cliff overhang that everyone needs to see! There will be a **Hole Punch** hanging on a string for you to punch your bib to prove you were there! This area will be clearly marked.



## More Event Details

### Event Parking.

There is ample parking at the Strouds Run State Park Beach Parking Lot, between a 1/4 mile and 6/10 of a mile walk to the starting area at the campground. When walking to the start/finish area, please watch for traffic on Strouds Run Rd. We will have this patrolled.

With that said, SEOTR still recommends a couple of ways to make the parking lot less crowded and easier to navigate on race morning.

- Carpool with friends or family who also plan to be at Thunderbunny.
- If you are camping in the Strouds Run campground, walk to the start/finish area (1/4 mile)

Below is a picture of the parking lot area at the Strouds Run Beach to help you get familiar with the area (the orange dotted line denotes the walking route to the starting area).



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## Camping.

### Thunderbunny Group Camp

Limited camping space for 35 people, reserved for the race through race registration (this option does fill up).

Runners who registered for the group camp option can check in at packet pick-up. Like the website states, this is a “primitive” campsite with pit toilets and no shower house or electricity. You will be sharing a field tucked in the woods with other group campers from the race! There is water at the camp - if the water spigot inside the group camp does not work, there are several just a short walk over by the main campground. There are pit toilets in the main campground just across the road.

Group campers can arrive starting at 12:00PM on Friday.

[PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO SEE EXACTLY WHERE THE GROUP CAMP IS](#)

Parking for campers in the group camp will not fit everyone. If conditions are dry campers will need to park in the grass field across the road from the group camp. If the field is wet we have permission to park in the main campground, at empty sites, and along the side of the road (parallel parking). **Just make sure you stay off of the main road**, which runs between the main campground and the group campground.

### Strouds Run State Park Public Campground

Runners are also encouraged to camp at the Strouds Run State Park Campground. This is the main campground at the State Park, which is in the same area as the Group Camp, and also the location of the start/finish area of the race.

Getting a campsite here is non-reservable, and is filled on a first-come first-serve basis; runners will need to handle the payment themselves once arriving at the self-serve kiosk. You'll have a private campsite with an individual paved-parking spot. The cost of these sites is \$20. This is a great option to be very close to the start of Thunderbunny.

[CLICK THIS LINK FOR INFO ON THE STROUDS RUN STATE PARK CAMPGROUND](#)

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## Weather Note.

With Thunderbunny being in early May, we can have many different types of weather, ranging from cold and rain, to very hot and sunny. Due to the weather not being hot in the months before the race, it means our bodies have not acclimated to the heat.

- Hydrate extra in the days leading up to your race.
- Be knowledgeable on the aid station distances and your projected time gaps between those stations.
- Consider bringing a handheld water bottle or hydration vest to race in.
- If you start experiencing a higher heart rate, nausea, dizziness, muscle cramps, and sweating more than normal, slow your pace down or walk until you recover.

- At aid stations take advantage of water and electrolyte drink.

Search for “Athens, Ohio” on your weather app to follow the weather prior to the race.

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### **Chip Timing and Results.**

Thunderunny will be professionally chip timed. Everyone’s bib number will have a small chip attached to the back of it. This chip will be read at the start and at the finish for your official time. Do not bend or cover this chip, so the accuracy of your result is ensured.

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### **Switching Distances.**

You may still switch your distances of the race by either changing it through your UltraSignup account “registration history” or notifying me if you registered as a guest. You can do this through Wednesday, please let us know ahead of time!

You may also let us know at packet pick-up if you would like to switch distances.

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### **Dropping Out During the Race.**

THIS IS CRITICAL! If you happen to drop out of the race, you **MUST LET SOMEONE KNOW**, either an aid station worker or report back to the finish line to tell our timing crew. If we do not know you dropped out then we may presume you are still on the course, and we will get worried you are lost out there. Please let us know if you have to drop out.

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### **Bib #'s.**

Please have your bib number visible during the race for aid station workers to see so we can track who has come through aid stations and at the finish line. Do not pin your bib on the back of your shirt or on your pack - please place the bib on the front of your body.

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### **Toilets.**

There are many pit toilets located throughout the parking area and the campground at Strouds Run State Park. There will also be a row of portable toilets near the Start/Finish Area, with a handwashing station.

There will also be a portable toilet at the Dow Lake Dam aid station (mile 13.04) and the Sells Park aid station (mile 22.92) If you need to relieve yourself along the course, please step off the trail, and use the woods. If you poop, please use Leave No Trace rules and bury it as best you can (use a stick or your foot), away from water sources and far off the trail.

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## Protecting And Sharing Our Trails.

One of the reasons we put on trail races is because of our love for trails and the environment. It is important for us and our participants to be good stewards of the trails, so we can protect them as much as possible so that all users can enjoy them throughout the year.

Thunderbunny provides countless hours of hard work to maintain the trails at Strouds Run!

- The trails are open to the public during the weekend. Please be courteous to all other users; hikers, mountain bikers, etc. etc.
- Please do not pass runners while running through wildflowers or very tight singletrack on the trails!

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## Road Crossings.

Please be careful and look for cars as you cross paved roads. You will cross the main road THREE (3) times if you are in the 50K and twice for the other races. Traffic will not be stopped. We will have attendants and law enforcement at the one main crossing, but cars have the right-of-way. **Pause and look both ways** when crossing any paved roads. When driving in and out of the park be careful for runners as they are on the course

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## Rules and Policies.

1. **DO NOT LITTER.** This isn't a road race. When you eat a gel, or have a cup of water at an aid station, plan to use the trash can at aid stations, or stash your trash in your pocket or pack. If you see trash along the trail please stop and pick it up. We want to leave the trail as good as we found it!
2. **Be Kind** to other participants and volunteers. This goes without saying, but as a trail running community, we take pride in treating our fellow runners like close friends! Be courteous and helpful to everyone!
3. Wear your bib # visible on the front of your body at all times (front of shorts or shirt)
4. You **MUST** enter every aid station. We record bibs at every station to track runners. There is a short out and back at the Dow Lake Dam AS. You must go down the hill into the station and back up.
5. Stay on the course and trails at all times, and do not cut corners or switchbacks.
6. When passing other runners on the trail, announce which side you are passing and wait for a safe moment to pass.
7. If you wish to transfer to a shorter distance prior to the race, please let us know before starting. If you are in a longer distance and decide mid-run to run the shorter distance course, please let us know when you finish.
8. DNF's (Did not finish): We wish everyone a safe and good finish, but the reality is that sometimes people are unable to finish. If you need to drop out of the race, please do so at an aid station and let an aid station worker know. Do not leave the course without informing someone you are dropping out, or else we will be looking for you!
9. Please do not have any friend or family without a bib run with you. While this is a public park and open to the public it is forbidden to have a "pacer." We have had this problem in the past year and if we find someone running with you without a bib you will be DQ'd.
10. No being mean to volunteers, general public, or other runners. This rule solves many problems!

11. Do not bring your dogs to run with during the race. This is not within our permit or insurance policy.
12. You may wear headphones but please either keep one earbud out or keep the volume low enough to hear others. Do not listen to music audible on speakers to where others can hear. Many runners want to enjoy the quietness of the forest.

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### **Crew and Spectators.**

If you have family or friends that want to support you and cheer for you along the course please direct them to [THIS CREW AND SPECTATOR GUIDE](#). Please make sure they follow this guide and do not go to any of the locations outside of these aid stations.

Thunderbunny is very spectator friendly and friends or family can follow you to a lot of the aid stations. They will also be easily able to drive through town during the race for food and other activities.