



## *Overview*

### *Welcome*

On behalf of the Race Directors, Volunteers, and Sponsors, welcome to the Annual San Diego 100 Mile Endurance Run (SD 100). The SD 100 was founded by Paul Schmidt in 2001 and then handed to Scotty Mills. Scotty then gifted the race to Angela Shartel and BJ Haeck and in 2024, Angela stepped down and Rich Morrison partnered up with BJ. We are proud of the history of the race and continue to strive to maintain the quality and vibe established by all of these great RD's.

Yes, this is a lot to go through. However, everything you need to successfully complete the race is here. Feel free to skip the parts that don't pertain to you. That's what the scroll thingy on your mouse is for. But do take your time going through this Handbook. It will be obvious to us if you did not. To the extent you still have questions after reading this, by all means, please

reach out to us via e-mail and let us know. We're happy to try to get you any information you want or need.

We're committed to do our best to help prepare you to successfully run a tough and challenging 100 miles in the beauty of the San Diego east county mountains. Meet us in that commitment by taking the time to look through this manual.

## ***Race Location/Directions***

The San Diego 100 starts and finishes at Lake Cuyamaca located 9 miles south of Julian, CA. The south parking lot of Lake Cuyamaca serves as the race venue for packet pickup, check-in and the pre-race briefing. Lake Cuyamaca is located at: 15027 Highway 79, Julian, CA 92036. **Directions Link:** [goo.gl/QGr4JH](https://goo.gl/QGr4JH)

**Cancellation and Volunteer Policy:** If for any reason the event is cancelled due to an act of nature or other Forest Service permit issues, the race director will make every effort to refund all unobligated funds to entrants or rollover entry fees to a rescheduled race date. Entrants must accept the fact that there are risks involved in staging an ultra in the wilderness, and there are no guarantees that all entry fees will be refunded if the run is not held as advertised.

As a requisite for participation, entrants are required to volunteer 6-hours towards trail maintenance, or volunteer work at any running or community service event. To verify

completion of this, simply e-mail the race and let us know what you did to satisfy the requirement. If you have pictures, please include them.

In lieu of completing trailwork (or in addition!), a runner may donate \$100 to support SURF, trailwork, and our volunteers. A donation goes to support Trailfit, our local trail maintenance organization, to ensure that the trails in our mountains are well maintained. Ken Bonus and his crew do a fantastic job, and a donation goes to ensure that they have the resources they need, including equipment and training.



We hope and encourage runners in the greater San Diego area to complete their volunteer service on the trails we use for the 100 miler. Information about the San Diego Trailfit program and how to sign up for a workday are located at [San Diego Ultra Running Friends - SD Trailfit.](#)

## ***Solo Division***

1. Entrants declare their intent to enter the Solo Division (S) when they register. Anyone can change to Solo or Supported before April 15 by notifying the RDs. After that

time, there will be no changes, and a Solo runner must run Solo.

2. Solo Division runners are not allowed to have crew or pacers assist them throughout the race. They rely solely upon the official aid stations and their drop bags.
3. Solo Runners are not allowed to have spectators at any aid station other than the start and finish, and as such, will not be given a crew vehicle placard at check-in.
4. Solo Runners are allowed to run with other runners and/or their pacers but cannot rely on them (other than in an emergency) for support.
5. If entrants violate the Solo Division Rules, they are not disqualified from the race but will no longer be recognized as a Solo Division finisher.
6. All Solo Runners will wear a wristband to distinguish them in the Solo category.
7. Runners may not change to supported during the race. SOLO finishers will be awarded the SOLO FINISHER Belt Buckle for their accomplishment of tackling the 100 mile course unassisted.

## *Lodging / Camping / RV's*

Lake Cuyamaca, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, and Julian, CA are very popular vacation destinations in early and mid-June. If you haven't made reservations, make them now or you may have difficulty finding lodging for race weekend.

Lake Cuyamaca has rental facilities for campsites and RV's. Several of the cabins and condos are already reserved to accommodate weekend volunteers; however, there are a few available if you reserve early. Reservations and deposits are for staying at Lake Cuyamaca: [www.lakecuyamaca.org](http://www.lakecuyamaca.org). Or you can call at 760-765-0700 for reservations. Be sure to let them know you are with San Diego 100.

There are several lodging options available in the nearby town of Julian, which is only 9 miles from the start. The **Julian Chamber of Commerce website** has many possibilities: <http://www.visitjulian.com>.

**Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (Paso Picacho Campground)** is only 3 miles from Lake Cuyamaca and has campsites and cabins to rent: <http://www.reserveamerica.com>

Also, check out **Mt Laguna Lodge** for accommodations in the Mt Laguna Recreational Area section of the race (about 18 miles from Lake Cuyamaca but near many of the middle aid station locations): [www.lagunamountain.com](http://www.lagunamountain.com)

Another popular option is the Ayres lodge in Alpine, which is approximately 30 minutes from the start. [Official Site | Ayres Lodge Alpine \(ayreshotels.com\)](#)



## *Schedule of Events for 2026*

### **Thursday, April 30, 2026**

- 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm: Optional pre-race check-in and bib pick up at Lake Cuyamaca south parking lot. Please note that if you pick up your bib early, **you will still be required to check in on race morning so we know that you are on**

**course and to get your tracker.** You can drop off your drop bags as well – however, please note that while we will do our best to protect them, they will be stored in a tent outside and may be subject to weather and/or raccoons, etc.

Please note that there is no in-person briefing. **However, there is a mandatory video briefing. Once the updated briefing video is ready, there will be a link on our website, and all runners will receive an e-mail updating everyone that the briefing is ready to be viewed. WATCHING THIS BRIEFING VIDEO IS MANDATORY.** There will be a secret password somewhere in the video, and you will need that password to pick up your bib.

The RDs will be onsite at early bib pick up to answer your questions if you have any. There also will be several other volunteers who are valuable sources of information and can assist with any aspect of your last minute race preparation.

## **Friday, May 1, 2026**

- 4:30 am - Check in, pick up your bib if you haven't, and deposit drop bags. **ARRIVE EARLY - PARKING IS EXTREMELY TIGHT!** The later you arrive, the further you will have to walk to get to the start. If you have an oversize vehicle, you will be asked to park in a lower or satellite lot, even if you are a solo runner. Please note that there is no parking along Hwy 79, so if you arrive late, you will have to walk

upwards of a half mile from an available and legal parking location. You will be ticketed if you leave your car on Highway 79. If you are just dropping off a runner, you will not be allowed to enter the lot, but you can drop your runner off at the entrance to the parking lot for a short walk to the start. You must check-in, even if you got your bib the day before! You must pick up your tracker and we need to know who is on the course for your safety.

**REMEMBER, YOU MUST KNOW THE SECRET WORD FROM THE BRIEFING VIDEO TO GET YOUR BIB.**

- 5 AM: Early start for runners requesting it over 60. A reminder that Early Starters must be prepared to go 20 miles without aid.
- 5:30 am: All Drop Bags must be deposited at the appropriate aid station bin next to the Registration Tent. Drop bags must be no bigger than 16 x 12 x 6. Any larger than these size limitations will not be accepted. Drop Bag bins will be organized by number and aid station, so please pay attention to where you leave your Drop Bag. Drop Bags should be labeled with runner number and aid station. Drop Bags begin to leave the venue at 5:30 am! Drop bags will not be under cover that morning or at the station, so they may get wet. It is unlikely in May but plan accordingly.
- 5:50 am: Final Race Briefing in front of the Start Banner.

- 6:00 am: Race Start in front of Registration Tent. We will not allow any runners to start late since sweep runners will be removing marking ribbons just behind the last runner/s.
- 6:10 am: Mandatory crew briefing and distribution of crew parking passes.

## **Saturday, May 2, 2026**

- 12:00 am to 6:00 am: Sub-24 hour finishers arrive at finish line and receive their **SUB-24** hour buckles. Chili and other food available at finish.
- 6:00 am to 2:00 pm: Sub 32-hour finishers receive their **FINISHER** buckles.
- 6 AM. Beginning of full food service and party at finish line.
- Solo Runners who finish under 32 hours receive **SOLO** buckle.
- Chili and other refreshments will be served beginning midnight Friday with more hearty fare beginning at 6 AM until the event ends. Runners will receive a free meal and drinks, but food and drinks will be available for purchase for everyone else. We encourage everyone to relax, have fun, and enjoy seeing the runners achieve their dreams.

## **Saturday, May 9, 2026**

**Post Race Fiesta!** – This will be at Hopnonymous Brewery from 1 – 4 PM. <https://goo.gl/maps/difHaiK5aMKAXTpe8>

First beer is on us if you wear your official SD 100 swag. We encourage you to buy your volunteers a beer as many of them will be there with you to share stories and good times.

## ***Race Rules***

### **Getting Lost, Cutting the Course, and Cut Off Times**

1. SD 100 is a closed course. You must follow the official course or you are not an official finisher.
2. If any runner gets lost or cuts the course, he or she is required to return to the point at which they went off course by their own means and continue the run from that point. If a runner does not return to that point or continues on after cutting a section of the course, they are disqualified.
3. Runners who do not make the mandatory cut off times as written on the Course Information Chart will not be allowed to continue. If an Aid Station Captain determines you are not fit to go on, you will not be allowed to continue. The Aid Station Captain exercises the authority of the Race Directors and has earned our complete confidence. Most if not all have finished the race at least once if not multiple times. They have the authority to pull a runner from the race if they feel it is unsafe for the runner to continue. Please do not argue with the aid station captain's decisions. If an Aid Station Captain determines that it is unsafe for you to continue, you must

surrender your race bib. Arguing with the Aid Station Captain may result in the runner not being allowed to participate in any future San Diego 100 or San Diego Slam race.

4. **Dropping out of the race:** Runners can only drop out at aid stations or with the RD's express permission if not at an aid station. If a runner drops from the race for any reason, it is the runner's sole responsibility to personally notify the nearest aid station captain that he or she is withdrawing from the race. **The runner is also required to physically remove and give their race bib to the aid station captain.** Failure to notify an aid station that you are out of the race and failure to turn in your bib # may result in costly search and rescue measures which will be the financial responsibility of the runner. We do have a runner transport vehicle that will arrive as the station closes and at other random occasions. We will do our best to get you back to the start/finish at the first opportunity. But it may not be at YOUR convenience, so please consider this before you proceed to the next aid station (see below).
5. If you leave an aid station, you **MUST** be prepared to continue to the next aid station as depending on when you go through, there is an excellent chance the aid station will not be there upon your return. So make sure if you leave that you are physically and mentally able to get to the next station. If you go backwards on the course, you may be banned from any future edition of SD 100 and banned from other San Diego Slam events. Yes, we've done it before.

Why are we hardasses about it? If you go backwards, we have no way of tracking you or knowing where you are if you go backwards on the course. This is EXTREMELY stressful for all involved, including your crew or those watching at home. You must properly self-assess. Being a “hero” to save your ego puts yourself and others at risk, and selfishly endangers our permit and the ability of others to do this race in the future. Be realistic about where you are and what you can do. We provide the best safety and tracking in the business, but if you don’t follow the rules, you may end up in a situation where we can’t help you. Be smart.

- 6. YOU CANNOT DROP AT WATER-ONLY STATIONS.** These are located at Blue Ribbon and Big Oak. This is because we do not have runner tracking checks at these stations and may be unmanned. You must proceed to the next full aid station to drop.
7. Failure to abide with any of the rules of the race or decisions of the race directors or aid station captains will potentially result in you not being allowed to participate in any future SD 100 or San Diego Slam race.

## Littering

Dropping litter anywhere on the course is strictly prohibited. Carry all trash to the next aid station and dispose of it in the appropriate receptacles.

If you happen to see a gel pack or other race related litter that was accidentally dropped, please pick it up for us and dispose at next aid station. Thank you for keeping our trails litter free!

## Relieving Yourself

If you must relieve yourself, get off the trail and out of sight. Bury and cover solid waste and toilet paper properly. LEAVE NO TRACE! There are bathrooms or porta-potties at Lake Cuyamaca, Green Valley, Sweetwater, Penny Pines, Meadows, Red Tailed Roost, and Pioneer Mail.

## Medical Issues/Safety

**You are responsible for your own safety.** We have a medical director and will have several medical care volunteers during the run. We have also trained several people at our expense in CPR and wilderness first aid at the various aid stations to try to ensure your safety. With that being said, ultimately, again, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN HEALTH AND SAFETY. In case of an emergency, we will endeavor to get local emergency personnel to an injured runner (or vice versa) as soon as possible. We have had long discussions with local first responders about the best way to do this, but due to the remoteness of the course, this could take hours. This is an

event with risks. Please thoroughly read the registration waiver and recognize it is up to **you** to make wise decisions with regards to health and safety. A finish is not worth a hospital stay. Or worse.

The race has liability insurance only. This insurance does not cover medical costs incurred by the runner. If you do not have medical insurance, we recommend you join USATF. This race is sanctioned and insured by USATF and members may be able to be reimbursed for medical costs (with a cap of about \$6k) if the medical condition was not due to negligence on the part of the runner. For more information, check out USATF's on line web site.

Finally, and we can't believe we have to actually write this, but the parks have asked us to include this section - **please** let us know if you see a runner in distress or, better yet, help them out if you can! When you do report to us, please do your best to get a location through a GPS pin or mileage from the aid station or trail junction (not "by a big rock") and the runner number and what he or she is wearing. You will have our phone number so can contact us directly or inform the aid station captain who will then take the appropriate action.

## **Pets**

For liability insurance purposes and permits, dogs that are not fully (and truly) licensed service dogs are not allowed at aid stations or on the course. Dogs will be allowed in a very restricted area in the shade away from the runners at the start

finish venue. This rule will be **strictly** enforced and has led to runner penalties for their crews violating this rule. Dogs are also not allowed on Cuyamaca Rancho or Anza Borrego trails. It is the runner's responsibility to brief and inform your crew and/or spectators of this restriction. This has in the past resulted in penalties for the runners.

Beyond all this, it is likely going to be hot during the race, and you will be endangering your fuzzy friend by bringing him or her to the race as a car is not a great place for a dog during the summer and it will get very hot out there. Do your dog and runner a favor and leave the pups at home.

## Smoking

Please no smoking at aid stations or the start finish venue.

## Course Information

- The SD 100 course covers 5 major areas: Lake Cuyamaca, Rancho Cuyamaca State Park, Mt Laguna Recreational Area, Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), and the Noble Canyon and Indian Creek Trails.
- The trails are under the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service Descanso District (45%), the California Rancho Cuyamaca State Park (50%), and the Lake Cuyamaca Recreational Area (5%).
- The course is approximately 80% single track trails, 17% forest service roads and 3% asphalt road. There are many technical and rocky sections. The PCT sections total about

20 miles of the course. The overall elevation climb and descent are approximately 15,000 feet each.

- Pay very close attention to applicable course markings and review the overall course map so as to have the big picture of the course. While the course will be excellently marked, there have been instances of course marking vandalism in past races. As such, we recommend downloading the GPX file, carrying a copy of the course maps and/or detailed route directions for sections that you are unfamiliar with. Moreover, there are course videos which show all major turns on the course (and some not-so major). Do yourself a favor and check these out along with the maps and turn by turn directions (the video link is below). You will stand a much better chance of finishing or meeting your goals if you take these simple preparations.
- [\(10\) Cliffs and Meadows - YouTube](#)

## Aid Station Chart

Aid Station	Miles Between Aid	Total Race Miles	GPS	Open Time	Cutoff Time	Drop Bags	Crew Access	Pacer Change
START - Cuyamaca Lake	0.0	0.0	32°59'6.19"N,116°34'55.19"W	6:00 AM				
Trout Pond	12.7	12.7	32°58'35.25"N,116°34'55.28"W	7:15 AM	10:00 AM			
Cuyamaca Peak	7.0	19.7	32°56'48.91"N,116°36'23.12"W	8:30 AM	12:45 PM	Yes		
Green Valley	9.7	29.4	32°54'14.07"N, 116°35'6.27"W	10:00 AM	3:30 PM		Yes	
Blue Ribbon (water only)	6.2	35.6	32°52'35.12"N,116°35'12.62"W	11:00 AM	No Cutoff			
Sweetwater	5.9	41.4	32°54'37.71"N, 116°34'26.65"W	1:00 PM	7:00 PM	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pine Creek Road (water only)	8.1	49.5	32°53'39.38"N,116°30'18.00"W	2:00 PM	No Cutoff			
Hammer's Hideaway	2.3	51.8	32°52'1.39"N,116°30'54.68"W	2:00 PM	10:15 PM	Yes		
Penny Pines 1	7.4	59.2	32°54'20.72"N, 116°27'27.29"W	3:00 PM	1:00 AM	Yes		
Meadows	5.1	64.3	32°51'40.09"N,116°27'43.74"W	4:00 PM	2:45 AM		Yes	Yes
Red Tail Roost	6.3	70.6	32°51'26.16"N,116°25'24.44"W	4:30 PM	4:45 AM	Yes	Yes	Yes
Per's Cabin	5.0	75.6	32°52'49.65"N,116°25'23.73"W	5:30 PM	6:15 AM			
Penny Pines 2	5.1	80.7	32°54'20.72"N, 116°27'27.29"W	6:15 PM	7:45 AM	Yes		
Pioneer Mail	3.9	84.6	32°55'29.92"N, 116°28'56.33"W	7:00 PM	9:00 AM	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sunrise	7.1	91.6	32°58'40.81"N,116°31'29.94"W	8:15 PM	11:15 AM	Yes	Yes	Yes
FINISH - Cuyamaca Lake	9.0	100.6	32°59'6.19"N,116°34'55.19"W		2:00 PM	Yes		

Please keep in mind that water-only stations will be unmanned, and runners cannot drop at these stations.

Cutoff times will be enforced; however, if a large number of runners (25% or more) have not made a cutoff due to inclement conditions or other factors, there will be consideration of an extension of the cutoff at the RDs' sole discretion. Please note however that this is extremely unlikely, and runners should not count on any cutoff extension being granted. The aid station captains have been instructed to STRICTLY ENFORCE cutoffs, as sweepers begin pulling course marking immediately after the cutoff. Please do not argue or plead with them to let you go on. They won't.

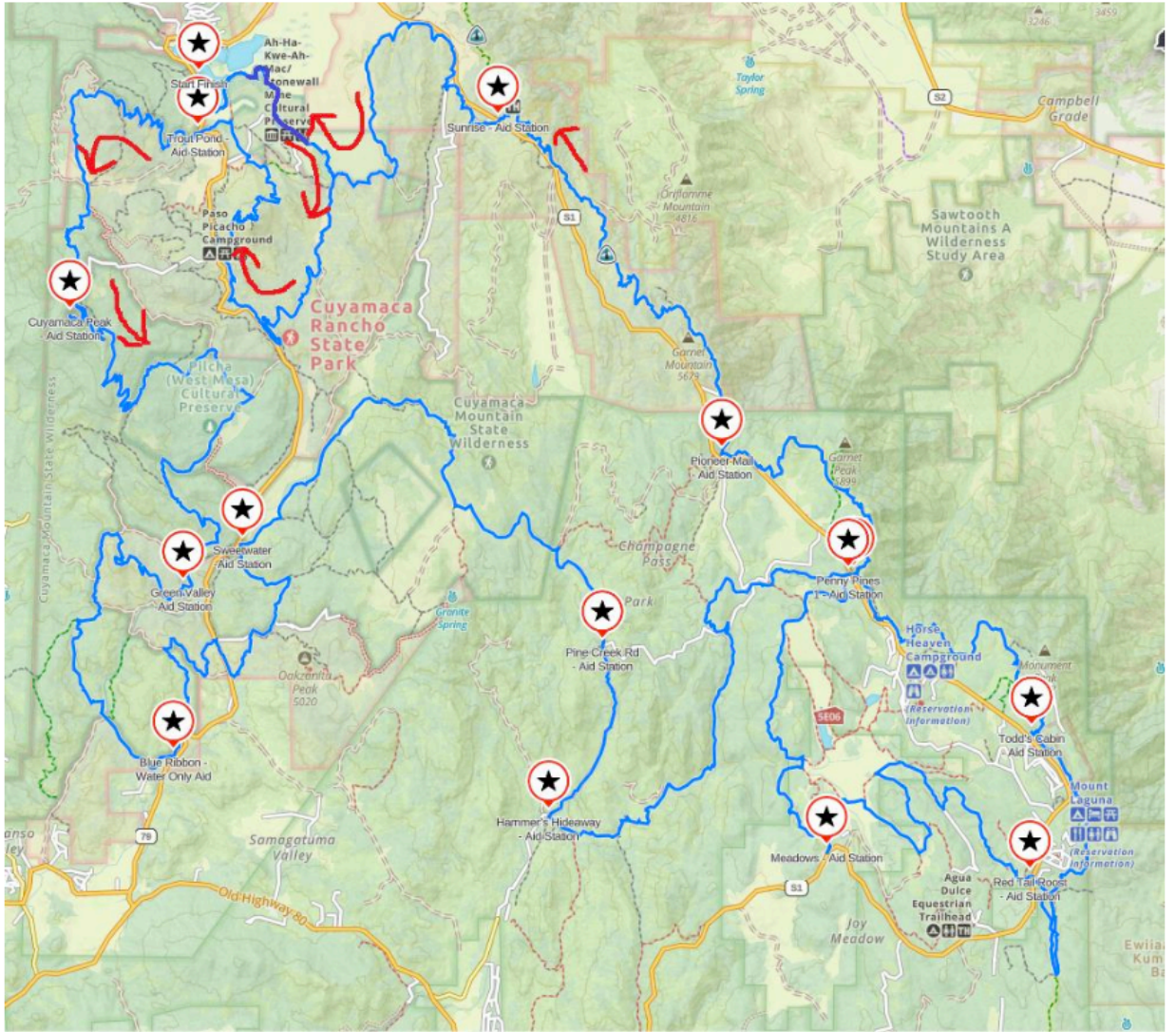
## *Shuttle Schedule*

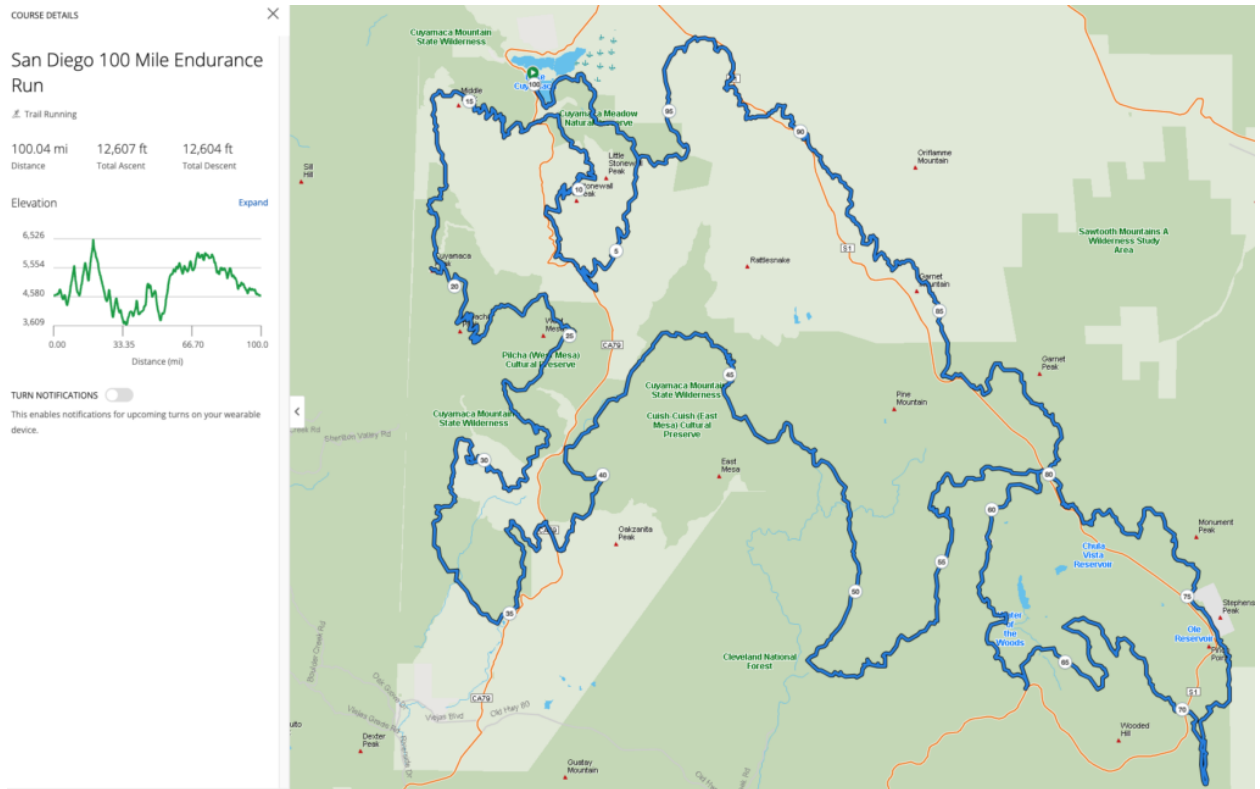
There will be a shuttle to pick up dropped runners and return them to the start/finish line; however, in most cases, it will not be scheduled to come to the aid station until after the station closes. Closing times are posted in the aid station chart. It will make unscheduled stops as time allows. As such, if you have a crew, and you drop at a crew accessible station, this will be a much better option for you. If your crew gives you a ride out, you will likely be asked to take another dropped runner with you. We appreciate in advance your willingness to help out your fellow runners!

## *Course Maps*

Please be sure to view the Course Maps tab on our website for detailed maps, a downloadable GPX file, and turn-by-turn directions. The below is just meant as an overview. We highly recommend viewing the videos created by Brian Gonzalez and reading the turn-by-turn directions, which identify key turns. While this is not a navigation test, given the GPX files, turn-by-turn directions, maps, and videos, we do expect runners to do their homework and be able to safely navigate the course without marking in the unlikely event of course marking vandalism.

# Full Course Overview





## Walk Through Description

### Start to Trout Pond (12.5 miles)

The race begins with a nice mile run on a tight single track through a meadow around the lake. **NO PASSING FOR THE FIRST HALF MILE.** Once you get to the picnic tables, there is room to pass. You will enjoy a nice run around the lake, making a left turn onto Stonewall Grade road and starting a big loop around Stonewall Peak, culminating in climbing to the top of it. After following Soapstone Grade and then Stonewall Creek fire road for a few miles, look for a hard right onto Cold Spring Trail, one of the best trails in all of San Diego County. This is a greater than 90 degree turn, so be on the lookout. After a very pleasant

climb and descent, you make a right onto Cold Stream Trail, which is not one of the best trails in all of San Diego County, but make the best of it as you have a long grind up Cold Stream and Stonewall Peak. Over the top of the mountain, it is a very technical descent down the backside of Stonewall, then a short run through the meadows before CAREFULLY crossing Hwy 79 to Trout Pond Aid Station, where the Running Skirt crew will be excited to see you! Please note that you must stop for the cars when crossing, not vice versa. Please also note that it is 12.5 miles to first aid; however, it should be relatively cool. Plan accordingly.

### Trout Pond to Cuyamaca Peak (7 miles)

Your second climb of the day takes you up Middle Peak with incredible views back over the lake. There is no peak, so to speak, but the fire road you've been climbing turns to single track and takes you downwards with views out to the west. Squint to see the ocean! You will go through 4 corners and then up Canejos, starting your third climb of the day. Canejos is very rocky and technical, and the climb, unrelenting. Just be glad you aren't running down it! You will then join the paved Cuyamaca Peak road for a short but steep final push for the summit. You will enjoy the tough love hospitality of the Zuniga Brothers and Outpost Z at the top of Cuyamaca Peak to prepare you for your next section.

## Cuyamaca Peak to Green Valley (10 miles)

It will start to warm up as you enjoy some long downhill from the highest point on the course down to Green Valley. The first few miles are on beautifully smooth trails through a veggie tunnel that has changed dramatically since a fire tore through and burned most of the big trees several years ago. After dropping down almost all the way to Highway 79, you will actually do a short climb up to see Airplane Monument, a tribute to airmen who lost their lives when their plane went down in 1922. Not a bad spot to take 30 seconds and reflect. From there, it is a relatively short downhill to Green Valley aid station and Jeff Hooker's crew who will take great care of you.

Note that the aid station will be set up at the Arroyo Seco Picnic area. However, parking will be tight, and your crew, if you have one, will have to hike up to a mile to get to the aid station, so plan accordingly. We expect your crew captain to be tracking their runner online and we will not allow crews to come to the station until they are within 2 miles of the station. We lost Penny Pines as a crew accessible station due to the action of irresponsible crews in 2024. Without your cooperation, Green Valley may be next, so please be respectful to the race and to others.

## Green Valley to Sweetwater (12 miles with water stop)

THIS IS THE HARDEST SECTION OF THE RACE. This is a long stretch in what for many of you will be the hottest part of the day. Be sure to have PLENTY of fluids before you head out. You will be required to leave here with 70 oz., but more wouldn't be a terrible idea. This section is the number one killer of runner's dreams, and Sweetwater sees the largest number of drops of any station due to this section tearing out folks' hearts. Those who have thoroughly scouted this section, in person or virtually, and are mentally prepared will be rewarded.

You start with a 1.5-mile climb up Pine Ridge with a few false summits. You then roll on some fire road and single track before hitting the Saddleback Trail. Look sharp for this hard left. You will hate Saddleback. Just accept it. Trailfit has done an amazing job getting it in the shape its in, but there's only so much you can do. Saddleback ends with what passes for a river crossing here in San Diego County. Take advantage and get wet! After the crossing, you have about a mile to an unmanned water station at Blue Ribbon to top off your fluids.

From there it is a gradual but exposed climb up Blue Ribbon (or as we drunks call it, PBR) trail and over a fire road to a small pass before you drop down to cross Highway 79. It will be busy and we will have personnel there to assist you, but you have to stop for the cars, not vice versa. After you cross, it is a short

climb up to the Harvey Moore trail after which you drop down to Sweetwater Aid (finally!) and Mike White will be there ready to get you back in the game.

Clearing Sweetwater will be one of the cruxes of your race. Again, it is where most runners drop, not because of time, but because of the heat, dehydration and the thought of 2 more big climbs. Now is the time to reassess where you are. If you clear Sweetwater, you will have plenty of time to cool down once night hits, and if the issue is with your head and not your legs, keep going! However, because of the nature of the remoteness of the trail after this aid station, the captain has been instructed to err on the side of caution before letting people continue. Once you leave the station, there is no turning back, and it will be a long time before you see crew or another station where you can drop. This is where we have had to ban very experienced runners for turning around because they weren't ready for the climb to come and bailed, causing endless issues for us and endangering themselves. In other words, don't be Ed Ettinghausen.

[Sweetwater to Hammer's Hideaway \(10.5 miles with water stop\)](#)

Bidding a fond farewell to whatever awesome treats Mike has prepared, you will once again be required to carry 70 oz. as you head out through beautiful, runnable meadows for the next

couple of miles. For those here in the late afternoon, there is a chance to see turkey and deer (and even a mountain lion for a lucky few). You will then tackle the Harvey Moore trail, your second to last big climb! You will catch some breezes on the switchbacks as you work your way up to the high Cuyamaca meadows. From there, you will bid a fond farewell to the Cuyamacas as you run the connector trail down to the Lagunas and joining the old San Diego 100 course at the fire road where you take a right. After a few miles and a steep but short climb, you hit the water station at Big Oak (you'll know it when you see it) followed by a fun 2 downhill miles on freshly paved road as of May 2025 to Hammer's Hideaway.

Hammer's is named after a long-time volunteer captained this station for years and passed way too early. It is expertly captained by his friend Mikster. As they help prepare you for Noble, pour a little tailwind out in Hammer's memory. Or have a beer, as that would be much more in his spirit.

### [Hammer's Hideaway to Penny Pines 1 \(7.5 miles\)](#)

Fill up for your last major climb of the race! It is a long but not necessarily tough climb through Noble Canyon. It will be hot if you are here in the afternoon and suitably spooky at night! It begins as technical rolling desert but as you get into the trees, the climbing starts in earnest. You get a brief respite after crossing a paved road 5 miles in. The climbing becomes much

more gradual for the last push to Penny 1 and the awesome Run Dirty crew. Please note that this is no longer a crew accessible station due to runners and their crews being unable to follow simple directions.

### [Penny Pines 1 to Meadows \(5 miles\)](#)

A beautiful section of meadows, the trail becomes rolling, giving you a break after the long grind of Noble Canyon. Navigation here can be tricky, so please be sure to review your GPX, maps, turn-by-turn directions, etc. You will be able to hear the frogs in the various pools in the lake area in a wet year, and there are places where you will have a 360-degree view. We expect most of you to be here at night. If so, please do yourself a favor and take a moment to turn off your headlight and look up at the stars! You might want to stop running before you do that. Once you make it to Meadows, the South Bay Y folks are going to give you so much good energy, you'll be ready to float the last 35 miles.

### [Meadows to Red Tail Roost \(6.5 miles\)](#)

The trail continues to roll, giving you time to recover, as for most of you, you are now in late-night survival mode. The course takes you back into the meadows (watch out for cows!). Very soon you'll cross a bridge through a boggy area that used to be guaranteed wet feet, but thanks in part to funding from San Diego 100 runners, there is now a bridge, so it is no longer

a mud slog. Look for our logo! You then run through a mountain bike course with lots of obstacles (optional but bonus points), and then into the forest, ending with a relatively short but steep technical climb with lots of false summits before dropping down to Red Tail Roost. You will curse our name on this climb, but stick with it and stay patient! When you think you are at the top, you aren't! Until you are . . . Mike and Ina will make it worth your while and pamper you to no end, so don't be tempted to stay and party with them as you still have work to do!

### Red Tail Roost to Per's Cabin (5 miles)

A 1.3 mile section of fire road brings you to the PCT where you will take a hard left towards Canada. This would be a bad turn to miss, though lots of folks do. PAY ATTENTION FOR THIS TURN. Soon, the views start to open up over the desert, and on the right day or night, you can see all the way to the Salton Sea. The winds can really start to pick up here, so be prepared. The trail is rolling, runnable (if anything is runnable after 70 miles) but technical trail until you take a left off the PCT for a short jaunt downhill to Per's cabin. Long time SD 100 stalwart Todd sold his cabin and Per, a longtime ham volunteer, has been generous enough to let us continue the long tradition of the station, where Mario and his crew, long time veterans of Todd's, will be ready to keep you moving on your PCT journey.

### Per's Cabin to Penny Pines 2 (5 miles)

The trail rolls for a bit with a decent climb (OK, the climbing isn't entirely over) before a downward trend to Penny Pines 2. You are just across the street from where you were at mile 59 after your Noble Canyon adventure, and you are hopefully feeling just as fresh! Tracy Dimino and her squad will be waiting, probably in goofy costumes that will make you laugh, to get you all you need for the final push home.

### Penny Pines 2 to Pioneer Mail (4 miles)

More fantastic single track in a relatively short rolling push to the next station where Mariela and her crew are ready to greet you with a full-service crazy fun station with crew access and energy to spare to get you through your night/morning. It may be warm for those of you coming in after 6 AM, so be sure to leave with lots of ice and fluids if that's you.

This next section (to Sunrise) is the most dangerous of the race, if not the hardest. There is limited cell coverage, the winds are usually crazy, and the heat can be fierce, even in the early morning. We have had to evacuate folks off this section of the trail on multiple occasions, and it hasn't been easy. Please do a very thorough self-evaluation and be sure you can go on before leaving this station. Mariela and her VERY experienced crew will take great care of you, but they've also been asked to err on the side of NOT letting you go on if they have doubts about

your ability to continue given the history of this section. DO NOT leave this station unless you are feeling strong and are prepared.

### Pioneer Mail to Sunrise (7 miles)

Now that we have scared the poop out of you, we can tell you that this is actually a very fun section if you are ready for it. The great desert views continue. After a short climb and crossing a paved road, you start a very gradual downhill trend. Having said that, there are plenty of pop up hills to frustrate you, and it can be rocky, so stay patient! This section will seem a lot longer than it is as the trail rolls in and out of side canyons. Again, be sure to have lots of ice and water before heading out. After about 7 miles, you say goodbye to the PCT and turn left to visit Joey, whose folks will be waiting to get you all you need for a glorious finish!

### Sunrise to Finish (9 miles)

This is it! The glory ride home. You begin with a rolling section along Sunrise Hwy (crews, be sure to honk encouragement at the runners!) followed by incredible meadow running with lots of unbelievable views of Stonewall, Middle, and Cuyamaca peaks (all of which you climbed!) A great moment to reflect on your journey and get a little emotional. Don't worry, no one's watching. Finally, you hit the fire road, close the loop, scoot around the lake and a dash for the finish. You'll see and hear

the finish line about a mile or so before you get there, so soak it all in! You have earned it! You can have as many friends and family run in with you from the picnic tables to the finish (even solo runners), so make it a party, and congratulations!!!

## ***Drop Bags***

1. Runners may have drop bags (clearly marked with runner's name, bib #, and applicable aid station) for personal needs at the designated drop bag aid stations (Cuyamaca Peak, Sweetwater, Hammers, Red Tail, Penny 1 and 2, Pioneer Mail, and Sunrise).
2. Drop bags are restricted in size to the equivalent of a large shoe box (16 x 12 x 6- this size will be strictly enforced). All bags need to be durable, waterproof, and secure.
3. Your drop bags must be placed in the applicable aid station containers at the start area (Lake Cuyamaca) no later than 5:30 am race morning. These drop bags bins should be sorted by aid station and number, so make sure you are putting the bags in the right bin that matches your race number. Any bags that exceed the size limitations will not be accepted or transported. These bags may not be protected from the elements, so plan accordingly.
4. Drop bags will be returned to Lake Cuyamaca approximately an hour after the applicable aid station

closes. **Unclaimed drop bags will not be mailed back to entrants, so PLEASE pick up your drop bags prior to leaving the venue.** We leave the mountains by 4 PM, so there is no opportunity to claim your bags after that. Unclaimed drop bag clothing and gear will be donated to charity.

5. If you decide to withdraw, or finish the race prior to the drop bags being returned to Lake Cuyamaca, you or your crew can drive to the applicable aid station if it is still open and claim the bag that way.

## *Pacer Rules*

1. Pacers may accompany their runner for safety and companionship, not to lighten the load or run ahead of their runner to get supplies in advance of an aid station arrival. Pacers must check in and out of each aid station along with their runner so course monitors know they are on the course. However, there are no pacer bibs. If you want to draw your own to entertain your runner with a particularly horrific picture or something similar, go for it!
2. Pacers are entitled to use all the aid and resources at aid stations but are not allowed to carry (mule) or physically assist their runner.
3. Pacers are allowed to accompany a runner (one pacer at a time) beginning at Sweetwater.

4. Pacers may switch at Meadows, Red Tail, Pioneer Mail, and Sunrise.
5. Runners may have multiple pacers (family and friends) accompany them from the picnic tables by the Lake to the finish. Those who would like to run to the finish line, may hike out from the finish to meet their runner at the tables which are about a half mile out, and can then run in with them to celebrate the finish.

## *Crew Information*

**Crews must have an SD 100 parking pass to access crew accessible aid stations.** These will not be distributed with the race packet. These will be distributed to the crews directly at the start-finish line after the crew/pacer briefing Immediately following the start, approximately 6:10 AM on Friday. If your crew cannot pick up their parking pass at this time, they **MUST** contact the race directors to arrange their parking pass. Anyone found to be crewing without a parking pass will result in an immediate disqualification for their runner. We hate to be jerks about this, but crew and spectator parking and interaction with the public and aid station personnel is the number one threat to the permit of the race, and crews are the number one violator of race, forest service, and state park rules, so we want to ensure that there can be no question about what the rules are and what is expected of you as crews. It will still be lots of “fun”, we promise! We just want to make sure we are all on the same page as it is critical to the race’s continued existence.

1. Crews are allowed to meet runners at the following designated aid stations: Lake Cuyamaca (start), Green Valley, Sweetwater, Meadows, Red Tail Roost, Pioneer Mail, and Sunrise.
2. Crews at Green Valley will be instructed where to park when they enter. Please obey the instructions of the parking marshal. The aid station itself is located at the Arroyo Seco picnic area, where you can crew your runner. Because parking is relatively limited, please be realistic as to when you should arrive (it is almost 30 miles for the runners from the start to the crew area). Please don't get there super early and clog our station. We will have runner tracking this year, so if you are somewhere with cell coverage, you will be able to see exactly where your runner is and plan appropriately. Thus you will not be allowed to enter the area until your runner is 2 miles from the station. You may have to walk up to half a mile to crew, so plan footwear and gear appropriately. It is essential you be polite and help each other to make it work. Things were much improved over last year, but we are under a microscope with the State Park and if they take away crew access at this station, it will mean that the first crew access in future years will be at Sweetwater, 40 miles into the race. So please be considerate of future runners and play nice!

3. Crews who stop to meet their runner at other than crew access aid stations jeopardize time penalties or disqualification of their runner.
4. Crews must obey all parking restrictions and are required to have an SD 100 parking pass displayed in their vehicle windshield. In addition, there are parking fees in both Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (Sunrise, Green Valley, Sweetwater) and for parking in the Cleveland National Forest (Pioneer Mail, Red Tailed Roost, and Meadows). Day Adventure Passes for the national forest can be purchased in Pine Valley at the Market, at the Mt Laguna General Store, or Mt Laguna Visitor Center for \$5.00. For the state park, there is an electronic parking machine at Paso Picacho or Green Valley or **\$10 in cash** at Sweetwater. Purchasing 1 state parking pass is good for all the aid stations. Smart crews will save time by purchasing a pass at Paso Picacho as there will be less pressure there to get a pass.
5. Only one parking pass per runner. If you have more than one car, you'll have to figure out the logistics as to how those get switched around, etc.

## Crew Accessible Aid Stations:

1. **Green Valley** (mile 29.4): You will be directed where to park. There is very little parking at the aid station site itself in the Arroyo Seco picnic area. Be prepared to walk up to a half mile to crew your runner.
2. **Sweetwater** (mile 41.4): Park as directed in the parking lot. Do not park on the road at risk of getting ticketed. This station is only a 2 minute drive from Green Valley, so you have plenty of time to go get lunch or get a hike in or something in between aid stations. Please don't go directly to Sweetwater and wait as it will lead to a giant backup.
3. **Meadows** (Mile 64.3): Park on both sides of Sunrise Hwy and be careful crossing Sunrise Hwy. Please obey Aid Station captain on where to wait for your runner as space in the station is tight.
4. **Red Tailed Roost** (mile 70.6): Park on both sides of Sunrise Hwy or as directed in the parking lot if room is available.
5. **Pioneer Mail** (mile 84.3): Park along Sunrise Hwy facing the direction of traffic or in the parking lot as directed if space permits.
6. **Sunrise** (mile 91.5): Park diagonally on the side of Sunrise Hwy or in the parking lot as directed if space permits.
7. **Start and Finish Line at Lake Cuyamaca**: Turn into the north parking lot of Cuyamaca Lake or park on Hwy 79 but abide by the No Parking sections along some sections of Hwy 79. Sheriffs and Highway Patrol will ticket. **Do not park in front of the Lake Cuyamaca Restaurant – FOR CUSTOMERS ONLY!**

## *Crew Driving Directions*

**Lake Cuyamaca to Green Valley/Arroyo Seco Picnic Area**: Head south on Hwy 79 7.6 miles to Green Valley Campground. Pay entrance fee, and

then turn right to Arroyo Seco Picnic Area which is about a quarter mile on your right. You will self-park. Please be aware that parking will be tight, so please park close and be kind to one another. Also, be smart about when you arrive to crew your runner so not everyone is there at the same time. Drive is about 15 minutes from the start/finish.

**Green Valley to Sweetwater:** Head north on Hwy 79 for 1 mile and it will be on your right. On Google Maps the station is called Harvey Moore trailhead and will take 3 minutes drive time, while the runners will take much longer on their 12 mile journey so there is no need to drive directly there. Go eat a snack.

**Sweetwater to Meadows:** Head south on 79 for 5 miles to Old Highway 80. There you will make a left (east) and go 6.5 miles to Sunrise Highway. On the way, you will drive through the town of Pine Valley which has gas, a few restaurants and a small market. Then head north on Sunrise Highway for about 5.3 miles. On Google Maps, the station is known as the Meadows Information Kiosk. Total drive time is about 25 minutes.

**Meadows to Red Tailed Roost:** Drive back north on S-1 Hwy for 3.5 miles to Red Tailed Roost which is located at green mile marker 22.5. Park on side of S-1 or in parking lot as directed. This is about 8 minutes driving time.

**Red Tailed Roost to Pioneer Mail:** From Red Tailed Roost drive north on Sunrise Hwy 6.7 miles. The station will be on the right. Drive time about 10 minutes.

**Pioneer Mail to Sunrise:** Drive further north on S-1 Hwy for 5 miles to S-1 green mile marker #34.5 to Sunrise Aid Station. This is about 8 minutes driving time.

**Sunrise to Lake Cuyamaca Finsh Line:** Continue north on S-1 Hwy for 3 miles to Hwy 79, turn left onto Hwy 79 towards Lake Cuyamaca for 3

miles. Just past the Lake Cuyamaca Restaurant, turn left into the north parking lot. It is about 8 minutes driving time from Sunrise back to the Lake. You can park in some places along Highway 79, but please obey all signs, and you will likely be ticketed if you park illegally.

**CAUTION: Sunrise Highway is extremely dangerous as motorcycles and cars speed excessively. There have been wildlife strikes at races in the past. Be very careful and stay alert when entering and exiting parking lots and your car.**

## *Runner Tracking*

This year we have live real time runner tracking through Geo Tracks. You will be able to track your runner real time through a GPS tracking pod that the runners will carry at the top of their packs. You will need a cell signal to be able to do so. There is strong cell service at the start/finish and at Sunrise, and we recommend being at these places to track your runner. There is not great coverage at Green Valley or Sweetwater, so it is to your advantage to wait at the Lake or Sunrise to track your runner and then move out once they approach the station. We will provide the live tracking link through email prior to the race.

## *Awards and Swag*

### **Buckles:**

- Finishers will receive their Finisher Buckle upon crossing the finish line.

There are 3 distinctive buckles: **Sub-24 Hour Finisher**, **Solo Finisher**, and **Finisher** (finishing between 24 hours and 32 hours).

## Other Awards:

In addition, awards will be given to individuals for the following:

- Overall Winner
- 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Male Overall
- 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Female Overall
- 1<sup>st</sup> Male and Female Masters (over 50)

All finishers also receive the coveted SD 100 Embroidered Hoodie. We think you'll enjoy the goodies earned to show off that you actually did this thing!

## *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)*

### **Q: How do I volunteer for the event?**

**A:** Volunteers are the lifeblood of the event and we therefore appreciate any offers to help. We have tasks that include course marking, sweeping, aid station helpers, registration, timing, post-race food preparation, clean up and logistics roving. If you would like to help, please contact us at [SanDiego100rd@gmail.com](mailto:SanDiego100rd@gmail.com) to coordinate task assignments that work for you and the event. Thanks for volunteering.

### **Q: Why do you have a website, Facebook Page and Instagram account for the event?**

**A:** The race web site contains all the information you should need to properly prepare for the event. PLEASE take the time to

thoroughly review the Participants Guide on the website and copy applicable documents for you and your crews/pacers/supporters. Facebook and Instagram are used for convenience and to communicate with other runners to share information like training runs, make requests for pacers, share transportation, coordinate lodging opportunities, etc.

**Q: Will there be a live webcast for the race?**

**A:** Sort of? We will use [www.ultralive.net](http://www.ultralive.net) to post runner's times as they pass major aid stations. These times will be delayed due to poor transmission from remote aid stations and internet connectivity limitations. The link for the live cast will be located on the website homepage: [www.sandiego100.com](http://www.sandiego100.com).

**Q: Are the mandatory cutoff times at aid stations strictly enforced?**

**A:** Yes, the runner must leave the aid station at or before the mandatory cutoff time. This is non-negotiable. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification and will result in the runner being banned from all future San Diego Ultra Slam events.

**Q: What type of food and drink will be available at aid stations?**

**A:** Aid stations will have as a minimum, water, electrolyte drink (Tailwind Nutrition), gels, coke, mountain dew, ginger ale, ice, electrolyte pills, fruit, salty food (eg chips, pretzels), cookies, sandwiches (PB&J), and some candies. Night time aid stations will have hot soup and hot drinks. All of the aid stations will have at least 1 vegan option. If you have special needs for your diet (eg gluten free, etc), please use your drop bags for your specific replenishment needs. Aspirin, motrin, advil or other medicines are not provided at any aid stations.

**Q: What is the average temperature for SD 100?**

**A:** The SD 100 course covers elevations of 3,000' up to 6,000' and parallels high ridges along the PCT. Typically for this time of year, the average temperature range is from the low 40's to the mid 80's, but May weather in the mountains is unpredictable. Due to the low

humidity, exposure on some sections, and the ever possible strong winds, be prepared for near freezing wind chill factors at night and extremely hot day time heat indexes.

**Q: Will there be any formal training runs on the course?**

**A:** Yes. Check your emails from us and our Facebook page for details. Each will be 20 to 25 miles, a water drop as well as some kind of refreshments at the finish, and will feature roughly a quarter of the course in order as you come across it. This will include a night training run.

**Q: Can I have more than one pacer at a time?**

**A:** No.

**Q: Can I meet my runner at other than crew access aid stations?**

**A:** No.

**Q: Are there showers at the finish line?**

**A:** No. You can drive around the Lake one mile to the Lake Cuyamaca Chambers Campground, and there are two coin-operated showers next to the RV sites that have hot water. The cost is 25 cents per 2.5 minutes of shower. Bring some quarters.

**Q: Is there a formal Awards Ceremony?**

**A:** No, all finishers will receive their finisher's medallion, belt buckle, embroidered finisher's hoodie, and other goodies shortly after crossing the finish line. However, we highly encourage finishers, crews, pacers, and family to stick around at the finish line and enjoy watching others finish. There will be food and refreshments available until the last runner finishes.

**Q: If I have to withdraw from the event, can I transfer my entry or roll it over to the following year?**

**A:** Nope

**Q: Are trekking poles and music headphones allowed on the course?**

A: Trekking Poles are allowed to be used but do not have them out the first mile of the course due early crowding on narrow sections when runners have not yet spread out. Headphones are allowed but we request you keep the volume low or only use one earbud to allow you to be safe. Night time headphones are highly discouraged for obvious reasons.

**Q: Will there be aspirin, ibuprofen, motrin or any other pain relievers at aid stations?**

A: No, Aid stations will not have any of the above pain relievers available to runners. If you carry your own, please be responsible and follow recommended dosages on the bottle. Ibuprofen can be very diuretic and affect your kidneys during strenuous endurance events, so be sure to drink lots of fluids throughout the event to minimize any potential issues with dehydration.

**Q: If I am competing in the Solo Division, can any spectators of mine meet me at aid stations just to watch and cheer?**

A: One of the main reasons for the Solo Division is to reduce the number of support and pacer vehicles at crew accessible aid stations. As such, Solo Runners will not be given a Crew/Pacer parking pass: hence, spectators will only be allowed to see their runner at the Start and Finish line if their runner is a Solo competitor.

**Q: What are the local times for sunrise and sunset, and what is the moon phase for race weekend?**

A: Sunrise is about 5:58 AM. Sunset is about 7:28 PM. This year the race will be under a full moon!

**Q: I am hungry/thirsty/want to get some great San Diego beer and/or need gas. What can I do?**

A: The Pub at Lake Cuyamaca at the start has great food and drink and a very small store. Their sister restaurant just got voted best

beer bar in America. There are 2 or 3 restaurants in Mount Laguna close to Red Tail Roost including some great BBQ as well as a slightly larger market. For gas, you must go to Pine Valley, Descanso, or Julian, none of which are convenient to the course, although Pine Valley is on the way between Sweetwater and Red Tail. It is highly recommended you fill your tank before you arrive. Those three towns will also have decent size markets and more food choices. The nearest town of any real size is Alpine which is about 30 minutes from the start. They have a giant casino!

**Q: What other useful nuggets do you have that would help me finish this thing?**

**A:** Glad you asked! The race is very exposed and can be very hot. Do as much heat training as you can, and back off during the hottest part of the day, while getting plenty of salt and fluids. It will be hard to eat when it gets hot, so eat early while you can. Make it to the evening and it will get a lot better.

The race is a lot harder than it looks on paper. Runners have reported between 13,000 and 15,500 feet of climbing. It is super technical, and the rocks and roots make it difficult to make up time, even on downhills. The elevation plus the heat are killers so be patient. The technical nature of the course will also put a pounding on your feet, so take care of them. Address small problems early before they become race killers.

The climbing is all front loaded in this course. If you can make it to Penny Pines 1, you will have 80 to 90 percent of the climbing done. There is plenty of time to recover after Penny, so do your best to get out of that station, even if you are feeling terrible, as the next miles offer a chance to get it back together.

Most runners dropped at Sweetwater even though they weren't at the cutoff. The section between Green Valley and Sweetwater is long and can be very warm. Be mentally prepared.

Finally, learn the course and imagine it in your mind. Between the maps, turn by turn directions, and videos, our course has the most beta of maybe any course out there,. Take advantage and visualize, including how awesome the finish is going to feel! Take it from us, stepping across that finish line makes it all worth it.

## *Useful Information Links*

ultralive.net

<http://www.ultralive.net>

1. San Diego 100 will provide race day online live tracking of all runners. We use the **Ultralive** platform to record and display each runner's progress throughout the race. Please recognize that due to remote locations along the course (with limited reception), input times may be delayed.



<http://www.sandiego100.com/sanDiegoUltraSlam.asp>

2. The **San Diego Ultra Slam** is composed of four San Diego ultra- marathons. To be eligible for the award, participants must complete each race in the calendar order they occur. However, you may choose whichever race you wish to start with. Each race offers a different distance and distinct challenge to the participant, and running all four within one year represents a significant achievement. Your accomplishment will be memorialized on this site, and your award will be presented to you at the conclusion of your final race.

3. Online SD 100 **Merchandise Sales** is located at:

<http://squareup.com/market/sd100-merchandise>

4. [Weather Link for Julian, CA:](https://weather.com/weather/tenday/l/USCA0530:1:US)

<https://weather.com/weather/tenday/l/USCA0530:1:US>