

August 16, 2020

Kesugi participants,

The race is less than two weeks away so now is the time to devise a plan for the following:

- Transportation/shuttle — If at all possible, please arrange to get dropped off at the start by a support person. If you must leave a car at the start, do not drive solo and instead carpool with those you are comfortable traveling with. I counted 35 cars at the Little Coal Creek Trailhead this past Friday night (many were hikers camping along the trail and their cars would still be there Saturday). This is unprecedented and nearly filled the lot; if it happens on race weekend we will have serious parking challenges. The Ermine Hill Trailhead is much smaller and was also nearly full. Several volunteers will need to park there. Non-racers who are hoping to watch the race at Ermine Junction should not drive solo to the Ermine trailhead. And if it's full, don't cram in there. The only place that is sure to have adequate parking is Byers Lake — non-racers can access the end of the course from there. Whatever you do, don't bring an entourage of friends and family with you! We are in the middle of a pandemic and the fewer people, the better.
- Camping — The main Byers Campground (first come/first serve) was also full last Friday night; this is not unusual. Anyone hoping to camp there should arrive as early as possible on Friday of race weekend. Some people can camp at the improved Byers Headquarters group site, but we may have to shut that option down Friday night if it gets too full. Other lodging options in the area include Kesugi Ken Campground (by reservation), Lower Troublesome Creek Campground, Mt. McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge, Mary's McKinley View Lodge and any number of pull-outs for car camping. Camping at Little Coal Creek Trailhead is technically not allowed.
- Water – Have a hydration plan. Water sources such as streams are generally available along the 1st half of the course, but they are less frequent in the 2nd half (and include more lakes and ponds than streams). Racers have become dehydrated in recent years on hot days when they ran out of water and didn't have a purification device. There are plenty of purification methods on the market today; bring one with you, carry a Camelbak or take your chances with untreated water. No water will be provided at the Ermine Checkpoint as in some years.

A reminder that masks are required before and after the race, but not during. Bring a legitimate face covering (preferably not a single-layered Buff). The Kesugi COVID-19 mitigation plan is now linked at the top of the race website at www.kesugiridgetraverse.com; please familiarize yourself with it. Also continue to monitor your health for COVID-19 symptoms and do not attend if you have symptoms or have been around someone who has.

If your plans have changed for any reason, this year only you can receive a refund of your entry fee or a deferral until 2021. If you are dropping, email me and request a refund or deferral.

The race FAQ section has also been updated on the website and should answer many of your questions.

Lastly, if you or a support person has extensive medical and/or Wilderness First Responder experience, please let me know so we are aware of the potential medical expertise on hand.

Best,
Matias Saari
Kesugi Ridge Traverse Director