



parks · recreation · cultural services

July 22, 2015

Greetings, Blue Moon Trail Run participants.

With great excitement, I reach out to you prior to the second in the three-part race series, which will take place under an actual blue moon and feature a new 8K course in addition to the 5K loop on trails throughout beautiful Ute Valley Park. We will gather at Piñon Valley Park for an evening of sport, challenge, celebration and community building beginning with the Kokopelli Kids races at 5:30 p.m. and followed by the adult races 30 minutes later. Before final race instructions are provided, I want to thank each of you for supporting Colorado Springs community centers and local Friends groups. All net proceeds will be used to support programs and services at Deerfield Hills, Hillside and Meadows Park community centers and Cheyenne Cañon and Ute Valley Park. It is through your support that we can continue to offer these services and opportunities to many in our community, including those most in need. And a very special thanks to our primary sponsors: Kaiser Permanente, Pikes Peak Community Foundation, Lydiatt and Duru Family Dentistry, Runners Roost, Massage Envy, Pikes Peak Road Runners, Bristol Beer, Massage Envy and Josh & John's Naturally Homemade Ice Cream.

Specific to the race, please take note of the following:

- With a forecast in the mid-70's and a 40% chance of rain, conditions at race time should be quite pleasant. In the event of lightning and/or hail, the start of the race may be delayed. In the event of flood conditions, the course may be rerouted or, if conditions are deemed unsafe, canceled.
- The two water stations will be located at the Mile .28, 1.82, 2.82, 4.28 and 5.9 locations. Please take advantage of this and stay hydrated, while disposing of cups in the stations general vicinity.
- Note that due to deep ruts and in accordance with the newly adopted Master Plan for Ute Valley Park, the upper part of Scrub Oak Path has been rerouted. The new trail has much better footing, runs faster and adds a minimal amount of distance to the race courses (115').
- Course marshals will be placed along the course at areas considered most confusing. In addition, flour arrows, directional and mile marker signs and orange streamers, flags and cones will help guide you through Ute Valley Park. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each runner to familiarize themselves with the course. Please visit www.coloradosprings.gov/bluemoon to view a map. Hard copies will be on site upon check-in as well. With darkness descending at approximately 8:45 p.m., please bring a headlamp or flashlight if you feel that you may be on the course beyond that time period.
- Pre-registration and day of registration opens at 4:30 p.m. Friday at the Piñon Valley Park pavilion. There will be two separate lines with volunteers assigned to get you in and out quickly. 8K runners will receive a blue bib, with 5K runners to receive a white bib. Both races will be chip timed, courtesy of Pikes Peak Road Runners.

- For those interested in visiting the Runners Roost Beer Garden, featuring Bristol beer, please present photo identification at the time of check-in to receive a wristband, which will grant you access.
- On the menu for the post-race barbecue, included in your race registration, Rotini pasta and salad. Bananas will also be provided. Beverages include Powerade, water and Bristol beer. A complimentary beer is provided to all adult runners who have presented ID. Additional beer can be acquired by providing a suggested \$5 donation to the Friends groups. Tickets will be provided at the pavilion and will serve as the currency within the Runners Roost Beer Garden.
- The kids races will start promptly at 5:30 p.m. and are managed by Kokopelli Kids. The smaller, 800m distance will run along the north perimeter of Piñon Valley Park, with the 1.3 mile trail run starting atop the utility service road, running a counterclockwise loop and finishing at the start/finish of the 5K/8K races. Childcare will also be provided through Kokopelli Kids, with forms available at their registration table. Please cheer on these next generation of runners, as they will respond well to your encouragement.
- Following the kids races, additional track and field experiences will be offered on the north side of Piñon Valley Park for kids and adults alike, free of charge in effort to engage all who wish to partake in physical activity, no matter the skill or fitness level, to do so.
- Portable restrooms will be placed on the northeast side of the park, with the permanent restroom on the park's northwest side open and available as well.
- Trash receptacles will be placed in the general vicinity of the food service. Please keep our park clean by properly disposing of items, recycling all paper and plastic as well.
- Commemorative finisher pint glass will be issued to all finishers that can then be used to hydrate with water, Coca-Cola products as well as with Bristol Beer within the Runners Roost Beer Garden.
- There will be awards for the top male and female in each race. Age group awards will be provided to those competing in all three races following the final race on August 28 in seven categories: 19 and under, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70+. A ceremony will occur upon results being available, likely around 8 p.m. Massage Envy gift baskets and Runners Roost and Josh & John's Homemade Ice Cream gift certificates comprise the awards, which each winner will have the choice to select amongst. Those unclaimed will be transported to Runners Roost, where they can be picked up until Friday, September 19.
- Be listening for the Moon-themed mood music, to hopefully add to the ambiance throughout the evening. Artists ranging from King Harvest to Ozzy Osbourne, Frank Sinatra to Bill Monroe and Hawkwind to the B52's will be featured.
- And finally, please take a moment to enjoy your accomplishment and enjoy the ambiance of the actual blue moon, ordered special just for this occasion. And, if able, perhaps you could thank the staff, volunteers and sponsors who, in addition to you, helped make this event possible.

I hope that you are enjoying your summer and look forward towards sharing a wonderful evening with you at the 2nd leg of the 2015 Blue Moon Trail Run Series on Friday, July 31.

Brian Kates

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