



Blanchester, Ohio to Atlantic City, New Jersey – 630 Miles

2026 GEAR BOOK

A Pre-Race Guide

Updated February 2026

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Greetings RAE Racers and Crew:

Welcome to Race Across the East! By now there has been a great deal of preparation on everybody's part for this inaugural race. Our efforts for the 2026 race began months ago and this promises to be another great race. We know that you have been working hard as well. The following material is essential in helping you translate your hard work into a successful race.

The GEAR Book contains important information for race planning. It covers race details, some logistics and schedules. A draft copy of the rules is available on-line. Additional information is available on the RAE website (www.raceacrosstheeast.org), under the Race Resources section. There you will find information on race preparation, supplies, articles and much more.

We will do our best to ensure that your race experience is enjoyable and as safe as possible. You must do your part by being prepared to race and pedaling the bike is only part of the process. Read this material, visit the website, train hard and come ready to race!

Should any questions, concerns or otherwise arise, please do not hesitate to contact us. Good luck with your preparations. We will see you in Ohio!

Thank you and happy cycling,

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General Information



Race Across the East 2026

Race Across the East (RAE) - What is it?

RAE is an ultra-bicycle race. Unlike other famous races, such as the Tour de France, RAE has no stages. Drafting is not allowed and since it's a "single-stage" race, the first one to finish wins. Participants must have support crews. RAE is a RAAM Qualifier.

Starting in Blanchester, OH the route goes east across southern Ohio, the Ohio River, into the Appalachian Foothills of West Virginia, up and over the Appalachians, descends through the rolling hills and farmland of Pennsylvania and Maryland, across the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers, onto the Atlantic Coastal Plain to the Atlantic Ocean.

What is a RAAM Qualifier?

Aspiring Solo RAAM racers must qualify at a RAAM Qualifying event. RAE is a RAAM Qualifier (RQ) - one of over 40 RQs in 15 countries. Teams do not need to qualify for Team RAAM. Riders on 2- and 4-person RAAM Teams automatically qualify for Solo RAAM. All prospective RAAM participants – solo and team - are encouraged to race RQs. They're good for the racers and good for the sport of ultra-bicycle racing.

What is the relationship between RAE and RAAM?

RAE is an integral component of RAAM. Race Across the West (RAW) riders start in Oceanside, California with the Solo RAAM riders and finish in Durango, Colorado. The RAAM riders continue on to the East Coast. The RAE riders start in Blanchester about the same time the RAAM riders begin to pass through Blanchester, and ride among the leading RAAM riders on their way to Atlantic City. RAE is a RAAM Qualifier.

The 3 races – RAAM, RAW and RAE - are stand-alone events. Each race is a different length and each offers a different challenge. But the combination – RAE (630 miles), RAW (861 miles) and RAAM (3,000 miles) - provide a progression for aspiring RAAM racers. Just as the RAW racers did at the start of RAAM, the RAE racers will have an opportunity to ride and communicate with the RAAM racers.

All three races are owned and operated by Race Across America, Inc.

How difficult is RAE?

As a solo endeavor, while RAE is not as long as RAAM or RAW, it is most definitely a challenge. For those who finish, it may well be the accomplishment of a lifetime. As a relay team, RAE offers not only an opportunity to be challenged, but to share the experience with teammates. For all participants - solo or team - RAE will be both fun as well as a source of memories that will last a lifetime.

Who should Participate in RAE?



Whether this is your first ultra-race or you are new to the sport, whether you are just out for a challenging ride or on a path to RAAM, RAE offers cyclists an opportunity to share the RAAM course with the world's elite ultra-endurance cyclists. A successful RAE finish is a reasonable expectation for most reasonably fit cyclists.

General Race Information

RAE is open to Solo, 2- and 4-Person teams. The Race is 630 miles with 40,000 feet of elevation gain. Solos and Teams must be accompanied by a support crew. Participants will carry GPS trackers enabling family, friends and fans to follow them throughout the Race. The Atlantic City finish will be live-streamed. RAE participation will be capped at 64 racers.

Where does RAE start?

RAE begins in Blanchester, Ohio at the Blanchester High School.

When does RAE Start?

RAE starts on Wednesday, June 24. Solo riders start at 8:00 AM (EDT). Teams start at 10:00AM (EDT).

Where does RAE finish? RAE finishes in Atlantic City, New Jersey at Kennedy Plaza on the Boardwalk.

When does RAE finish?

RAE racers begin to finish on Thursday June 25. All Solo racers must finish by Friday, June 26 at 11:00PM (EDT). All Team racers must finish by Friday June 26 at 5:00PM (EDT).

Supported Charities

RAAM/RAW/RAE is honored to help our racers and support crews support their favorite charitable causes. There are 50+ charities represented every year and the aggregate funds raised have exceeded \$2 million per year. We look forward to hearing your stories and supporting your efforts. We are proud to be such an important platform for charitable opportunities.

How to Follow the Race

Media Coverage

Television, radio, newspaper and other media will cover the Races with the news angle that best suits their respective audiences. The markets surrounding the start, finish and time stations along the route will receive updates during the months and weeks before the Race arrives.

Media and Publicity Support



Racers are encouraged to pitch their own media contacts for coverage of their specific race efforts. Guidelines and templates will be available on the website in the Resources Sections.

Web Coverage (www.raamrace.org)

We use the outreach of Race Across America to assist in covering the Race on-line. In 2025, the RAAM Facebook page received over 3 million page views during the two-week period of the Race! Rather than using resources to film and produce a story for broadcast months after RAE, we believe the fan base of RAE craves news about their favorite Racers, in a timely manner. Therefore, RAE will deploy reporters, photographers and videographers along the route, and feed current Race information (written reports, photos and video clips) to both our social media channels as well as our websites on an hourly basis during the entire Race. Live Racer Tracking will be provided.

Social Media - we fully utilize the easy accessibility of social media

- Facebook - [@raceacrossamerica.org](https://www.facebook.com/raceacrossamerica)
- Instagram - [@raceacrossamerica.org](https://www.instagram.com/raceacrossamerica)
- YouTube - [@RAAM media](https://www.youtube.com/RAAMmedia)
- Twitter - [@RAAMraces](https://twitter.com/RAAMraces)

Note: Please use the hashtag - #RAE2026, #raceacrosstheeast2026

Website – our websites contain a wealth of information, both current and historical

- www.raceacrossamerica.org
- www.raceacrosstheeast.org
- Live Racer Tracking will be provided on both websites
- Starts and Finishes will be Live Streamed

Please direct family, friends, supporters, and local media to the web sites and social media outlets!

Resources

RAE Website

(www.raceacrosstheeast.org)

General Information

This GEAR Book provides the bare essentials for race preparation. The Race Across the East (www.raceacrosstheeast.org) and other endurance-based websites have an abundant amount of material on all aspects of the Race, including training, equipment, supplies, race strategies, results and much more. We highly recommend that you take time to review available websites to understand the scope of resources available.



Website Resources include:

- **Rule Book** – The full rules for the 2025 Race.
- **GEAR Book** – A pre-race guide
- **Start/Finish City Information** – Additional downloads for Atlantic City, including hotels, services, and maps
- **Clearance to Race Forms** – This packet, including all required forms are available for download
- **RAAM Qualifiers** – Information and links to all RAAM Qualifiers.
- **Gallery Videos** – Dozens of videos on YouTube from RAAM and from racers and crew showing what the Race is really like.
- **Additional Media** – Live Racer Tracking
- **RAAM Store** – Source for merchandise and additional race supplies

Articles

RAE is a big undertaking. However, you don't have to reinvent the wheel to be successful. Much of the information you need to know is readily available through websites such as www.raceacrosstheeast.org and www.raamrace.org. You will find many relevant articles on race logistics, preparation, budgets, communications, navigation, etc.

The RAE website also hosts the following sections:

About RAE – Basic information about the Race. This is a great source of selling points to sponsors and charities and to explain to friends and family about the Race.

Media – Information for Media and Press promoting the Race. Includes the latest race news. Also, we provide Live Racer Tracking.

Store – Purchase official RAE merchandise including clothing. You can also purchase race supplies.

Racers – Who's racing this year including racer photos and biographical information.

Route – The complete route for 2026 in preliminary form. The FINAL route will be the Route Book. GPS and route data for mapping software and several GPS devices is available in the Route section. The final route will not be determined until shortly before the start of the Race. Route books will be distributed at the start in Blanchester, OH.

Race Resources – GEAR Book, Rules, Registration Forms and Logos.



Crewing Seminars

The promoters of RAAM/RAE offer Crewing Seminars. Two-day Crewing Seminars cover everything you'll need to know to crew a successful RAE campaign. RAAM/RAE staff and race veterans with years of endurance cycling and race experience will host our seminars. Our goal is to teach you what you need to know to be successful.

Information on our seminars is available on the website. Announcements are made in our newsletters and on Facebook as it becomes available.

We urge you to attend our seminars even if you are already working with one or more coaches. We will cover material you will find nowhere else. Our seminars will not only enhance your overall experience, but substantially improve your chances of overall success.

Other Resources

RAAM, RAW, and RAE Veterans

Take the time to speak with race veterans and crews; they very well may turn out to be your most valuable sources of information.

Facebook – RAAM Ultra-Cycling Forum

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/523225327828742/>

Logo Usage Guidelines

In order to preserve the coherence of its image and fulfill contractual obligations, the RAE logo must be correctly implemented.

Everyone:

- You may use the RAE logo on your website provided it links to the Race Across the East website (www.raceacrosstheeast.org).

RAE Racers and Time Station:

- You may use the RAE logo on your promotional and sponsorship materials.
- You may use the RAE logo on race clothing, crew clothing, or clothing you provide or sell to raise funds provided the clothing also has your team name. You may not give away or sell clothing with just the RAE logo on it.

Color and Black & White files are available through the web site – click on the Race Resources section and then Logo.

Always use the files provided by Race Across the East. Do not alter or redraw the logo.



Main Points:

- The shape of the RAE logo may not be altered, overlapped, overlaid or obscured in any way.
- An unmarked border must always surround the entire logo making it clearly separate and distinct from other text and images on the page. This border should be the same color as the page background.

Questions

Please direct any questions about the use of the logo to:

Rick Boethling: rick@raceacrossamerica.org

Printing Process

One Color – Black

For black-and-white-only reproduction. Use on white-only background.



4 Colors

Use with 4-color process. Use on a white-only background. See color scheme tables below.



Digital Use

The .GIF and .JPG file formats are meant for on-screen use only.

Background

The logo must always appear against a single color background. This should be white. If the logo is to appear on a background of a different color, please contact us for approval.



Colors

To ensure consistency in color reproduction, the chart below gives the color schemes for your reference. The Blue is Pantone Color #279.

Blue

C	M	Y	K		R	G	B
	34	0			81	145	205

RAE Records System (RRS and Race Details

Race and Registration Information

To register for RAE, go to the RAE website and click on **Registration** for instructions on how to register.

Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email. Then you will need to login to the RAE Records System (RRS) to enter all your race details. The complete instructions for the RRS are below. You can also find a link for the RRS Login at the top of the RAE website home page.

RAE Race details are in several documents, which are also included below:

- Race Divisions
- Time Cutoffs and Checkpoints
- What's Included in your Entry Fee
- Policies on Fees and Refunds

Each of these documents can be found on the website under **Race Resources**.

RAE - Registration, Payment, Refund and Late Fee Policies

RAE Registrations

- RAE registrations must be **COMPLETE** by April 15. Unless otherwise specified, all material must be completed online in the RAE Records System (RRS). Your RAE record is considered complete when the following are finished and submitted:
 - Racer information (name, birthdate, address, etc.)
 - Racer biography
 - Photos of racer that meets photo guidelines
 - Primary Contact for Racer or Team



- Crew chief for Racer or Team
- List of charities you are raising money for with contact info, if applicable
- Signed Racer Agreement and Waiver
- For Teams, every racer must have completed all material above.
- Incomplete registrations are subject to a fee of \$250

Changes to Registrations

- Team Name changes made after April 15 may incur an additional charge
- Racer changes on a Team made after April 15 may not appear correctly in printed material
- For Teams who register a Team Member after April 15, the new Team Member will have two weeks to complete the online application.
- You may switch divisions prior to April 15. After April 15, please contact us for applicable fees.

Payment, Discounts and Late Fees

- Full payment of the entry fee is due at the time of Registration. Registration deadline is March 1.
- Racers will not be allowed to start until all fees are paid.
- All registrations initiated after March 1, must be paid in full at the time of registration.
- A minimum late registration fee of \$250 will be added for registrations between March 1 and April 15.
- No new registrations will be accepted after April 15. Teams may still add or change racers.

Policy on Refunds and Rollovers

Please refer to the Registration page on the website for the Refund/Rollover Policy.

RAE - What Is Included in Your Entry Fee?

Infrastructure

RAE requires a year-round organizational effort. In addition to the tangible things each registered racer receives, we also provide these all-important intangibles:

- A meticulously researched route that is safe & challenging.
- A headquarters staffed by 6-8 operators/officials around the clock for 1 week.
- Live Racer Tracking
- Festive Start and Finish Line activities and hospitality.
- Race officials on route, ensuring the safety, fairness and integrity of the Race.
- Ongoing consultation to support your race preparation.
- Promotional exposure for you and the charities for which you may be racing.



RAE and Race Supplies

Each Solo and Team in RAE will receive the following:

- Route Books
- 2 Vehicle Signage Kits and reflective tape for 2 bikes per racer
- Finisher medallions and Finisher jerseys for those who officially finish
- GEAR Book (Electronic copy)
- Registration Forms (Electronic copy)
- Official RAE merchandise

RAE Route Books

The RAE route is meticulously researched and recorded. The official Route Book includes maps, detailed landmarks, directions and other critical information.

- Solo – 2 Route Books
- 2- and 4-Person Teams – 2 Route Books

Additional Route Books are available at the online store.

Vehicle Signage Kit and Reflective Tape

Each Solo and Team will get 2 Signage Kits, one each for 2 support vehicles. Each kit contains the following:

- 1 reflective “CAUTION BICYCLES AHEAD” sign for the back of the support vehicle. (2 total)
- 4 personalized racer number signs for all sides of the support vehicle.
- 2 “Race Coverage” signs for the sides of the vehicles.
- Every racer also receives: 2 Bicycle Numbers and 2 Helmet Numbers

If you have more than 2 Support Vehicles, you **MUST** purchase one Vehicle Signage Kit for each additional vehicle. RVs are considered Support Vehicles. You must order by April 1. These are available for purchase through the RAE Store.

Racers need to bring their own DOT approved reflective triangles and amber flashing lights for the rear of their support vehicles. These are available for purchase through the RAAM Store.

Reflective tape should be enough for 1 bike (1/4 in x 3 ft / 2.54 cm x 1 m). Each Solo and Team will get enough for 2 bikes per racer. **Official RAE Merchandise**

Every racer receives a unique gift from RAE.



RRS Documentation

This section contains instructions and information for entering data in the RRS. If you have any questions or need any help, please contact us

Questions and Help about RRS

For questions about the RRS please email – director@raceacrossamerica.org

RRS address is <https://www.raceacrossthewest.org/raamors/default.php>

What you can do

With the RRS you are able to:

- Add or change Team members and Team information
- Provide complete information for each racer
- Provide complete information about your crew chief and crew
- Enter a biography for each racer
- Enter information about your team and your team's goals, purpose or the charity you are supporting.
- Submit Racer and Team photos
- Provide information about charities you are supporting
- Electronically sign the Racer Agreement, Waiver and Drug Test Consent.
- Make payments online

When you enter your Team information it will be updated on the website almost immediately.

You are urged to provide complete and accurate information. This is important as this information will be used by both RAE and external media as a source of information for articles and media coverage, which may highlight your team and the charity you support during your RAE campaign.

Instructions for the RRS

Home Page

- This is our primary contact information for your team. **Please keep this up to date.**
- We use this email address for periodic updates.
- One team photo is required. A second is optional. Maximum size is 1MB, accepted formats are jpg or gif.
- The Team/Entry Name is what will appear on the website
- The Team URL is your website if you have one. This is what we will link to.

Race Info

This provides basic information on the race you are entered in. Please review to verify the information is correct.



Racers

- This must be completed for each racer.
- **Solos Racers must also fill out this section.**
- Required fields are:
 - First Name and Last Name
 - Gender
 - Address, City, State, Postal Code, Country
 - Birthdate
 - Primary Phone, Primary Email
 - T-Shirt Size
 - Picture.
- One picture is required for every racer. You may load up to 2 pictures per racer. Maximum size is 1MB, accepted formats are jpg or gif.
- The Racing Age is the age you will be in calendar year of the Race. The Racing City, Racing State, and Racing Country will be where you are racing from in 2026. If you are a citizen of one country and a legal resident of another, you may choose whichever you prefer.

From the List of Racers - Electronic Signatures Instructions

The right-side link is for Waivers/Forms/Bio.

Every racer will need to electronically sign 3 documents online:

- The racer Agreement
- Release Waiver
- Drug Testing Agreement

In addition:

- If the racer is a minor (under 18), we will need a hardcopy with a parent or guardian signature.
- For each document we will send a confirmation email to the racer's email (if provided) and the crew chief's email.
- Every crew person will need to sign a release at the Start.

Crew Chief and Crew

Please add your crew chief. We want to know your crew chief so we can include their email address and add them to our distribution list for racer updates. We encourage you to add your crew members here, as well.

Charity/Sponsor

- Please add your charities.
- Please add your sponsors. We will display them on the website.
- You can optionally add a logo for your charities and sponsors. Maximum size is 100kb, accepted format is jpg or gif.
- You can add a website for each.



Fees and Payments

All payments for entry and fees go through the RRS. RAE registration fees are due in full at the time of registration.

If you wish to pay via wire transfer, PayPal or check, please email director@raceacrossamerica.org

Official Name, Team Name and Team Number

Your Team Name, along with each racer's name, must be submitted by April 15. These are the names that will be officially referred to in all signage, publications, the website, media etc.

- Team and Solo Racer Numbers are assigned on March 15.
- Solo Race finishers will be awarded their number as a lifetime number after a successful finish.
- All signage is ordered on March 15. The information listed for your Team in the RRS at that time will be used.
- An email reminder will be sent to remind you to make final updates to the RRS.

Supplies

The Supplies section shows what supplies you ordered and provides links to ordering and paying for supplies at the RAE Store. All items will be delivered at the Start in Blanchester. The items available include:

- Route Books
- Vehicle and Media Signage Kits
- Safety Kits (amber flashing lights and slow moving vehicle triangle)

Racer Profile

Racer profiles are important. Racers and their support crews, their friends, family and fans all want to know about the Racers. If you are using RAE as a platform to raise money for a charitable cause, you want your story told. The public wants to know who the Racers are. The media is hungry for good stories. It all starts with information. That information comes from the racer profiles. Good racer profiles help you, they help the Race, and they help the sport of ultra-bicycle racing.

What makes a good Racer Profile

A good profile should provide the following basic information:

- Racer Name(s), Team Name, age, gender
- What is your profession? Avocation?
- Sponsors?
- Why are you racing?
- Are you raising money for a charity? If so, what is the name and purpose?
- What was your path to RAE?
- What makes you interesting? Why should people follow you?



Your profile should be 100-150 words. We're looking for a compelling reason to tell your story. We have our own media crews covering the Race. We are frequently contacted by outside media. We get asked all too frequently, "How come you didn't mention me?" The primary reason is, "You didn't fill out your profile. So, we didn't have anything to say about you."

The information you provide will be published on the website and may be submitted to the media. Your completion and submission of this biography serves as authorization to publish, use and distribute to the media its contents.

RAE staff reviews all biographical material. We reserve the right to edit material submitted, remove objectionable material and/or request additional information if necessary.

Photo Instructions

Photos are a great means for everyone involved with the Race to know you.

- Every Racer must submit at least 1 individual photo.

The following are the guidelines for submitting photos:

- High resolution jpeg image (maximum size is 1MB). Black-and-white or color.
- Full-sized image is acceptable.
- Must be a clear photo on a plain, light-colored background.
- Ability to recognize the person. A picture without a helmet or hat helps for recognition.

The following are examples of good images:



The RAE Staff will review all photos. If the photos do not meet our guidelines, we will ask you to resubmit photos.



Pre-Race Communications

Once you have registered, Race Management will start sending periodic emails to all 2026 racers and crew listed in the RRS. These emails will include RRS reminders, information on local resources in Oceanside and Atlantic City, changes to race procedures, etc. It is vital that the Crew Chief receives and reads these emails in order to remain update on the race. It is also recommended all racers and crew read these communications. Emails will be sent from info@raceacrossamerica.org or info@raceacrossamerica.ccsend.com, which may be blocked by some spam filters.

If you or others on your team have not received an email (aside from the initial registration confirmation) from Race Across America by January 31st, please contact Race Management with an alternate email address.

Racer Numbers

RAE has a numbering system for categorizing and tracking racers. There is the possibility of over fifty different age and division classifications. This numbering system helps officials, racers, Time Stations and spectators recognize racer divisions on the road. Racer Numbers will be assigned the first week of March.

Solo Numbers

Each Solo Racer will be assigned an individual race number. Any Solo Racer that successfully completes the Race will be awarded that number as their permanent, lifetime racer number.

E100-E199 Solo

Team Numbers

E200 – E299 Two-Person Teams
E400 – E499 Four-Person Teams

Individual racers on a Team will have A, B, C & D appended to the Team number as a designation to help identify them. They will be listed on the roster in the Route Book.

RAE - Race Divisions

Race Divisions are a combination of the following:

- Racer Category
- Age
- Gender
- Bike Type

For Example, Solo 50-59 Male is different from Solo Under 50 Male, etc.



Racer Categories are:

- Solo Racers – one racer racing the entire distance
- 2-Person Team – two racers sharing the entire distance
- 4-Person Team – up to four racers sharing the entire distance

Note: Tandems are considered one “racer” in this context. One tandem would be in the Solo Tandem category, two tandems would be in the 2-Person Tandem Team category, etc.

Age Categories are as follows:

- Under 50
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-74
- 75-79
- 80+

Racing Age is the age each racer will turn during the calendar year of the race (year of race minus birth year).

Solos: Age is the racing age of the racer.

Teams: Age is the average racing age of all Team members.

Gender Categories are as follows:

- Men
- Women
- Mixed - indicates there is at least one male and one female member with the exception of Tandem teams which must have an equal (50/50) number of males and females.

Bike Type Categories are as follows:

- Standard (Diamond Frame)
- Tandem
- Recumbents
- Human Powered Vehicles (HPV)(Includes faired recumbents)
- Handcycle
- Fixed Gear

All members of a Team must ride the same bike type; no mixing bike types.

Open Division

The Open Division is a limited division for racer combinations beyond those previously listed. This includes handcycles, trikes, combinations of bike types, etc. Invitations to participate in the Open Division are at the discretion of the Race Director and Race Management. A Racer or Team may petition the Race Director for inclusion in the Open



Division. The circumstances of the request must generally fall within the infrastructure currently in place.

Consideration will be given to racers in the Open Division for an earlier start. All racers in the Open Division must be finished by the standard cut-off time. No racer will be considered an official finisher after the standard cut-off.

An additional fee may be required for Racers or Teams in the Open Division depending on resources necessary to accommodate their entry, i.e. officiating.

RACERS IN THE OPEN DIVISION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PLAQUES OR RECORDS. THERE IS NO PLACING OF RACERS IN THE OPEN DIVISION.

Qualifying

There are no qualification requirements for the Race Across the East.

RAE - Time, Time Allowance and Finishing Status

Race Time

During the Race the official time for reporting and tracking racers, will be that of the the US Eastern Time Zone, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) expressed in military time (24-hour clock).

Start Times

Start times listed are Eastern Daylight Time, which is local time in Blanchester, OH.

- **Wednesday, June 24, 2026 8:00AM** – All Solos
- **Wednesday, June 24, 2026 10:00AM** – All Teams

Time Allowance

Every Race Division has a time allowance; racers must finish within the allowed time to be considered an official finisher. As RAE has a staggered start, each Racer's or Team's time allowance begins from their assigned start time.

Solos – 63 hours (2 days 15 hours) – Friday, June 26, 2026, 11PM EDT

Teams – 55 Hours (2 days 7 hours) – Friday, June 26, 2026, 5PM EDT

All racers must Finish within their allotted time.

Intermediate Checkpoints

There are no intermediate checkpoints in the Race Across the East. However, check-ins must be made at all Time Stations including the final time station at Kennedy Plaza in Atlantic City.



Delaware Memorial Bridge Shuttle

All racers will be shuttled across the Delaware Memorial Bridge - a distance of 4.6 miles. That distance will remain in the total mileage for the Race. There will be no adjustment as the projected differences between the riding and shuttle times are not material.

Racing Ends at Surf Stadium.

Racers should “soft pedal” to The Board Walk. Racers will be sharing The Board Walk with pedestrian traffic. Racers must pedal VERY SLOWLY along The Board Walk to the Finish. Racers may not pass another Racer or Team after Surf Stadium.

A fixed time will be added to each Solo Racer and Team’s time at Surf Stadium. The fixed time added varies by Division. Following are the fixed times added for each Division:

Division	Time
Solo	+10 minutes
2-Person	+7 minutes
4-Person	+6 minutes
8-person	+6 minutes

Time Adjustments

A Time Adjustment may be given in unusual circumstances. One call to Race HQ is sufficient to explain the situation and request a Time Adjustment. HQ will address the request and make a ruling that will be final. HQ will inform the crew chief of the decision. Repeated calls may result in a Penalty. In any case, racers and crew should race as if Time Adjustments do not exist.

Time Considerations

Finish Time is adjusted for the following:

- Staggered start times
- Penalties
- Shuttles
- Any other adjustments made by Race Management.

Finish Cutoff

Solos – Friday June 26, 2026 11:00PM EDT - Start + 63 Hours

Teams – Friday June 26, 2026 5:00PM EDT - Start + 55 Hours

Time Extensions

There are no Time Extensions in the Race Across the East.



Finishing Status

To be considered an Official RAE Finisher, the Racer or Team must:

- Solo Racer or Team (at least one Team Member) must cross the finish line;
- Finish within the time allowed for the Division, Category and Age Group; and
- Still be eligible to race – cannot be disqualified.

All others who cross the finish line beyond the time allowed have our respect for their accomplishment; however, they will not be given a finish time and will be listed as DNF (did not finish).

Winners

The Racer/Team with the lowest accumulated time is considered the winner. There are overall, Category, Division, Age Group winners. The lowest accumulated time will take into account penalties, credits and staggered start time.

Withdrawal

Participants may elect to withdraw from the Race for any reason, including physical exhaustion, medical, mental, emotional, mechanical, personnel issues, etc. All voluntary withdrawals will be put on an 8-hour hold. Anytime during that period, they may resume racing. They must do so at the point from which they left the course. However, once the 8-hour period has expired, if they have not resumed racing, they will have given up the right to continue and will be listed as DNF.

Awards

Finisher's Jersey and Medallion

Every Racer who is an official Solo RAE finisher or official Team RAE finisher will receive a Finisher's jersey and medallion to mark the completion of their journey. The Finisher's jersey is a collector's item that only a few Racers have the right to wear. Limited to one Finisher's jersey per Racer, no additional jerseys will be made.

Supplies

Store

The RAE Store has all of the Official RAE merchandise and Race Supplies. We update and add merchandise all of the time. This is the only source for the real stuff!

Visit us at our online store or at the Start line in Blanchester



Race Supplies

Race Supply Purchase – RAE Store

In addition to official RAE merchandise, the following race supplies are available at the RAE Store:

- Route Books – Two per vehicle are recommended.
- Vehicle Signage Kits – These are mandatory for every vehicle. If you have more than the allotted number of vehicles (2) you must purchase additional kits.
- Media Signage Kits are mandatory for all media vehicles.
- Safety Kits (Amber roof lights & slow-moving vehicle triangle)

All supplies will be delivered at Check-in.

Start Line - Logistics, Planning, Facilities

Start Line Location and Facilities

Pre-Race Activities

All pre-race activities as well as the start will take place in the Blanchester High School parking lot. The address is 953 Cherry St., Blanchester, Ohio 45107.

The following is a list of the pre-race activities located at the High School:

- Check-in
- Photos
- Store
- Pre-Race Briefing

Racers do not need to schedule their Check-in or Photo time.

Inspections

All entries will be expected to self-inspect their support vehicles and bicycles using the forms provided in the Clearance to Race Forms.



See Map for details.



Pre-Race Schedule

The Pre-Race area will be open Monday and Tuesday prior to the start from 10am-3pm.

Mandatory Pre-Race Meeting

There is a mandatory Pre-Race Meeting for RAE racers and crew at 3:30pm Tuesday. These meetings allow crew chiefs and racers the opportunity to ask any final questions. We will meet at the designated location at the scheduled time.

It is recommended that you bring your Route Book and GEAR Book to the Pre-Race Meeting.

Schedule by Activity

Registration Office (Check-ins)

Handle all Racer Packet handouts, questions, and review Registration Forms. Update schedules for Photos as needed.

Monday, June 22 10:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesday, June 23 10:00am – 12:00pm

RAAM Store

Purchase all your RAAM merchandise, settle any payments, get your t-shirts/water bottles for your entry and do Finish Jersey sizing.

Monday, June 22 10:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesday, June 23 10:00am – 12:00pm



Photos

Photos of all Racers and Teams.

Monday, June 22 10:00am – 2:00pm

Tuesday, June 23 10:00am – 12:00pm

Crew Chief Meeting - MANDATORY

Note: The crew chief or their designee must attend this meeting.

Tuesday, June 23 3:30pm

Racers Will Not Be Allowed To Start The Race If Not In Attendance.

Check-In and Clearance to Race Forms

What happens when you arrive at the Blanchester High School check-in location? You must check in and pick up your Racer Packet (which includes all your signage). You must attach all racer numbers and signs to your vehicles, bicycles and bike helmets **before your final clearance to race**. Check-In starts Monday, June 22 at 10:00am.

Clearance to Race Forms

Clearance to Race Forms are available to download on the Race Across the East website under Race Resources. You **MUST** bring your Clearance to Race Forms to Check-In. You must have the Registration Forms complete and signed off to start the Race.

The Clearance to Race Forms will include:

- Waivers/Release Forms
- Equipment Inspection Forms
- Vehicle and Bicycle Inspection Forms
- Checklists for all necessary documentation
- Suggestions and typical problems encountered during the Inspections
- Vehicle Insurance Agreement Forms
- Schedule
- Clearance to Race Checklist

All Clearance to Race forms will be available on the website as PDFs under the Race Resources section.



Start Line – Staying Energized

Once you get to the Start Line in Blanchester, you still have quite a bit to accomplish before the Race begins. Our goal is to make this aspect of your race as easy as possible. At this point you will have applied all required signage to your vehicles and bikes, photos taken, attended mandatory meetings, your own Team meetings, received your final Clearance to Race, etc. Hours quickly pass at the Start.

All these activities can quickly drain your energy if you're not careful. To be ready for your start, here are some tips:

- Stay out of the sun as much as possible.
- Stay hydrated – keep drinking.
- Stay rested.
- Don't stand around too long.
- Get in a few short rides, walks, or runs to keep your body energized and the blood moving.

In other words, limit where you spend your time and energy.

While this primarily applies to the racer, this equally applies to the crew. The crew needs to be ready for the Race as well.

Note to Crew: It's worthwhile for someone to check on the racers to ensure they are not expending too much energy.

The Actual Start

The Start

The designated start times can be found in the section "Schedule by Date/Time." Your Racer(s) needs to be at the Start at least 45 minutes before the actual start time.

How the RAE starts work

Solo and Team Racers are started "time trial" fashion at two-minute intervals.

Start Order

Solo start order is by Race Number – highest to lowest. Team start order will be 2-person, followed by 4-person by Race Number – lowest to highest.



Start Procedures

- Race official will direct the Follow vehicles to their assigned spots.
- 30 minutes prior to the Start, the racers will move to the Start area.
- 15 minutes prior to the Start, Race Official will begin to queue up the Follow Vehicles.
- Immediately prior to the Start, the announcer will call the first racer to the Start.
- Racers and their Follow Vehicles will depart at 2-minute intervals.
- Racers, Follow vehicles and all other Support Vehicles must follow the instructions in the Official Route Book.

Race Communications & Race Headquarters

Smart Phones and Discord App

Once the race begins, all aspects of the race will be managed by race staff located at Race Headquarters (Race HQ). Race HQ is responsible for recording time station check-ins, along with penalties and time credits, coordinating course detours, dealing with emergencies and other on-course issues.

Race HQ will also have a website, which will include general route information and updates, instructions on how to check-in at time stations, weather information, instructions regarding the GPS Tracker, and information on how to contact Race HQ and use the Discord App. This website will be provided in the month before the race.

Race HQ is the sole source of information and point of contact for racers and crew during the race. It is critical that Racers and Support Crews are able to communicate with Race HQ.

Smart Phones

Every support vehicle must have a smart phone compatible with either iOS or Android operating systems, featuring capabilities for texting and internet access. Support Vehicles must have a smart phone with a US or Canada-based number. For those without a U.S. phone number, it is mandatory to have WhatsApp installed. HQ will only call international numbers using WhatsApp. Crew chiefs should ensure at least two valid phone numbers are provided during the sign-in process.



Discord App

Devices must have the Discord App installed. Discord is the official HQ communication tool. Crew Chiefs must ensure that at least one Crew Member on every shift is enrolled in the race Discord server.

Discord Usage

It is the Support Crew's responsibility to monitor Discord for race announcements on a regular basis and respond to direct messages or calls from Race HQ. Failure to use Discord will not only result in missing critical updates, but it may also result in a penalty.

Note: All information on using Discord and signing into the HQ Discord server will be sent out prior to the race.

Information Distribution

All official information will come directly from Race HQ via Discord, Race Officials and/or Executive Management. Race HQ will communicate with Racers/Crews through the Discord App. All route updates or changes will be posted on Discord and on the Race HQ website. It is the Crew's responsibility to monitor Discord for important route updates and changes and to download route instructions as they become available.

Route & Navigation

Route and Navigation

The RAE route is 630 miles long. It has been meticulously researched and reviewed to be as accurate as possible so you can have a smooth journey across the country. The route information is ultimately compiled into the RAE Route Book, which you will receive at the Start. This section will help you prepare for the task of navigating from Ohio to New Jersey.

Online Route Information

The Route Book is the master route information. We wait until just before the Race to print it so that we can get any final route changes into it. In the meantime, you will find route information available on the website with the most current information.

The website hosts a large amount of information about the route:

- Time Station locations
- Distance charts
- Maps
- Directions
- Elevation profiles



As changes are made to the route, we will update the website.

You will also find resources for electronic navigation via GPS or mapping software, including hints for use.

DO NOT BRING ANY PREVIOUS ROUTE BOOKS TO THE RACE AS IT MAY CAUSE YOU CONFUSION DURING THE RACE.

THE FINAL, PUBLISHED ROUTE BOOK -- Handed out prior to the start of the Race -- IS THE MASTER ROUTE.

Route Book

The core of the Route Book is the route itself. For each Time Station segment you will find a map, elevation profile and detailed directions with turns and landmarks. In addition, you will find the following information in the Route Book:

- **Course Description**
- **Staff** We have staff working on the Race throughout the year, but as we get close to the Race, staffing increases dramatically. There are dozens of race staff and hundreds of Time Station volunteers. We salute all those involved.
- **How to Use** Instructions on how to use and read the Route Book. The same as is provided in the following pages.
- **Special Instructions** The Finish has special instructions because they are different. In addition, you will find various sections of the course also have special instructions – interstates, construction, etc.
- **Rules** A complete copy of the rules will be in the Route Book.
- **Time Stations** A table of Time Station data including Time Station Number, Elevation, Miles, etc.

YOU WILL RECEIVE THE 2025 ROUTE BOOK AT THE START DURING REGISTRATION CHECK-IN.

RAE Navigation

As has been the practice for several years now, the route description will be supplied in two formats. The complete description appears in the Route Book and this is the one to which all racers must conform or be found at variance with the rules. In addition, the route is provided in digital form, suitable for GPS-assisted navigation. With this relatively straightforward technological enhancement, navigation errors can be reduced by having the ability to cross-check where you think you are in the Route Book with where you actually are in the real world. Moreover, access to GPS often times is helpful in getting back on course should you become lost.



Remember: if there is a difference between the electronic and hard copy Route Book descriptions, the Route Book provided at the start always prevails and is the official Route. If in doubt, always follow the Route Book.

The hardcopy Route Book includes all traditional information: all turns will be unambiguously described; mileage to turns, elevation data and important intermediate roadside milestones are given; distances are recorded in statute terrain miles such as a precisely calibrated odometer or cycle computer will display; annotated Time Station- to-Time Station section maps show the course in enough detail so that with the accompanying description extra paper maps should not be needed and an elevation profile in feet of each section is also be supplied.

Electronic Navigation

Electronic navigation employing mapping software or GPS hardware is a mature technology that is readily available in reliable, low-cost consumer products. Having GPS information available has made navigating race courses much easier. GPS devices continuously report location, indicate upcoming turns, etc.

RAE will make all necessary race data available in the various formats used by many of the more popular GPS receivers and their associated data installation programs as downloadable files from the RAE website. If contacted in a timely fashion, RAE management, specifically the Route Designer, will try to provide individual help with selections of equipment and software (by capability, not price or brand) which have been found to be most useful for the unique RAE task, and how to then prepare it with the proper data.

Using the Route Book

The primary task of the navigator is to ensure the rider and support crew remain on the route. In that regard, the navigator should check off way-points in the Route Book as they are passed. The navigator monitors upcoming turns. But there is much more to the navigator's job.

The navigator must be aware of what's up ahead – more than simply the next turn. The navigator should work in concert with others, keeping them informed as to what's up ahead. The Route Book provides other information which is helpful in planning ahead. Working together they can plan exchanges, stops for food, fuel, natural breaks, sleep, etc. This improves safety, efficiency, and overall performance.

The Route Book is laid out in segments (time station-to-time station). When open to a segment, the map and elevation profile are on the left and the description and other information is on the right. The best approach - the way to maximize efficiency - is to use the Route Book in conjunction with GPS and a smart phone or lap-top computer.



Sample Directions

This is what a page of directions look like in the Route Book.

TS 13 to TS 14

Cortez, CO to Durango, CO

Leaving Cortez, the course heads into the heart of the Colorado Rockies--the San Juan Skyway--with two warm-up climbs. Elk warnings return. Generally, wide roads with good shoulders and moderate traffic.

<u>ref</u>	<u>mile</u>	<u>turn</u>	<u>elevation</u>
TS13	0.0	E continue on US 160 E	6175
	0.4	straight TL: SR 145, stay on US 160 E	6180
	3.6	39.8 cross McElmo Creek (again, and for the last time) .. fairgrounds (on right)	6291
	8.7	straight jct US10/Mesa Verde National Park, stay on US 160 E .. 3 mile gradual descent	6963
	11.9	31.6 Mud Creek - Commence climb up Mancos Hill	6643
	14.9	straight stay on US 160 E <not right to Bus US 160>	6947
	16.3	27.1 <u>Mancos</u> .. TL: SR 184	7049
	17.0	26.4 cross Mancos R, <i>caution--Bus US 160 merges from right</i>	7117
	22.0	21.4 Mancos Hill summit, 2 mile descent into Thompson Park	7944
	23.4	20.0 Cottonwood Creek, Thompson Park. Commence climb	7639
	30.7	12.7 Hesperus Hill summit ... ski area (on right)	8414
	32.9	10.6 jct SR 140, stay on US 160 E	8129
	33.7	9.8 begin marked 6% descent	8230
	43.4	0.1 cross Animas R	6472
14A-L	43.4	LEFT TL/T: US550/Camino Del Rio. Large RVs may opt to turn right here and proceed .6 miles directly to the time station where RV support facilities are available.	6474
14B-R	43.6	RIGHT TL: College Dr (First TL on US550)	6488
14C-R	44.3	RIGHT TL: E 8th Ave (Last TL on College Dr in town)	6576
14D-R	44.6	RIGHT T: Santa Rita Dr (Toward Gateway Park)	6532
14E-L	44.8	LEFT TL: US160 E/US550/S Camino Del Rio	6479
TS14	44.8	0.0 TS 14 at Gateway Park - Phone at Visitor's Center	

Arrival time/conf#: _____ / _____

Time Station 14: Durango, CO

813.1 miles so far: 2,200.3 miles to go



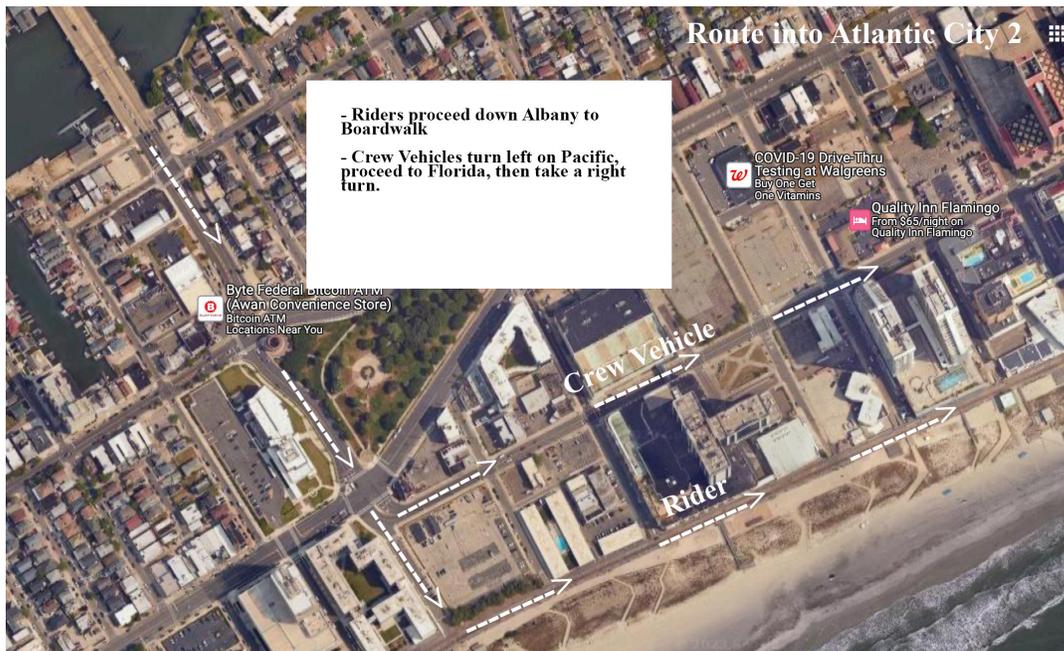
Finish - Logistics, Planning, Facilities

Map of Finish Line and Facilities



- Riders will do final time stations check-in at Crossan Ave. and Black Horse Pike

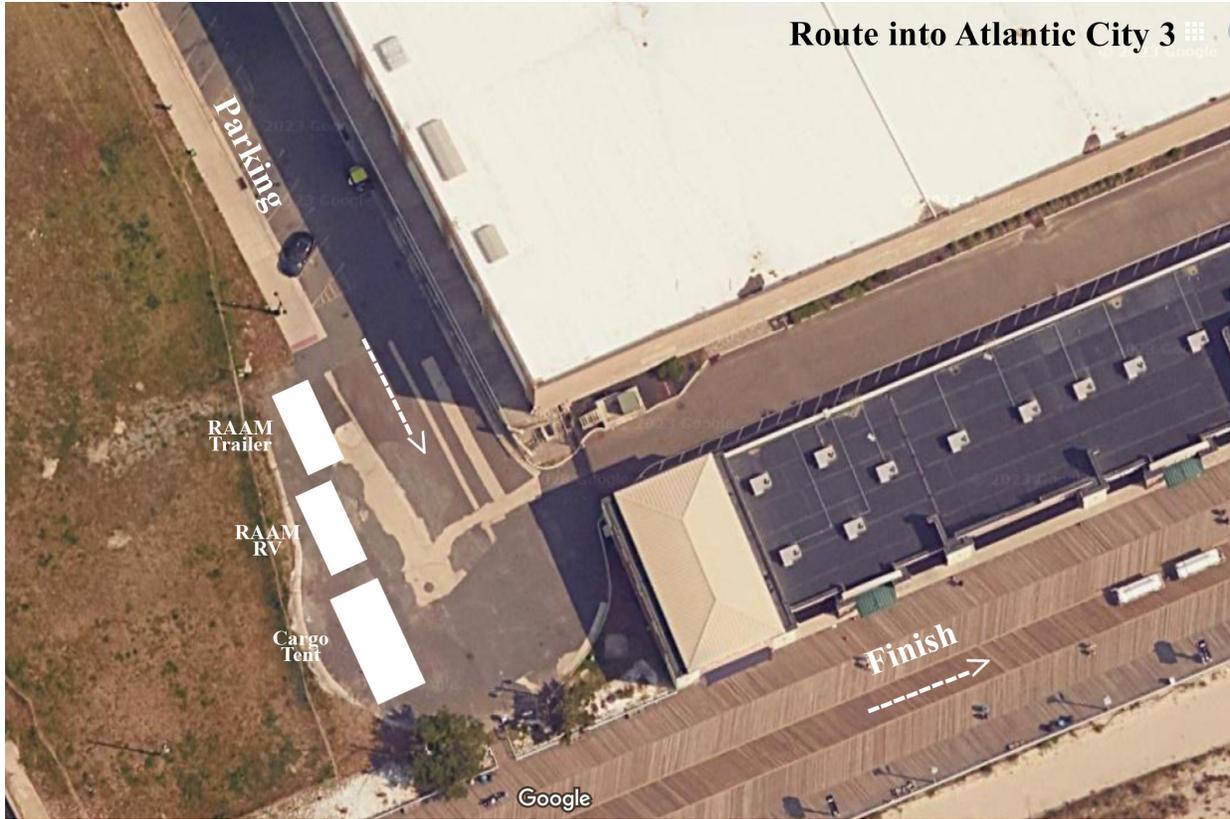
- Rider Clean up and gather all team riders together at Surf Stadium



- Riders proceed down Albany to Boardwalk

- Crew Vehicles turn left on Pacific, proceed to Florida, then take a right turn.





Finish Line Location and Facilities

Congratulations, after all of the hard work, good times and rough ones, you have made it to Atlantic City. Now that you are nearing the finish line, here's what to expect.

General Finish Procedure

The timed portion of the Race ends at the intersection of US 40/Albany Avenue and Crossan Avenue – the traffic light immediately after the McDonalds. The “Timing Line” is the crosswalk at this intersection. There will be no sprint finishes. You must report your time at this intersection, just as you would at any Time Station. We will add a “fixed time” to everyone’s time of arrival at the “Timing Line”. That will be your “Finish Time.” But you must complete the ride to the actual “Finish” on the Boardwalk to be an “Official Finisher.”

Surf Stadium

Stopping at Surf Stadium is optional. If you are a team and you want to put all your racers out on the road, you should do so at Surf Stadium. If the racer(s) want to change clothes, clean up or otherwise get prepared for the Finish, you should do so at Surf Stadium.

The racer(s) should “soft pedal” from the Timing Line or Surf Stadium toward The Boardwalk. Follow vehicles should turn left at Pacific Avenue, following instructions in the Route Book, to Florida Avenue. Follow Vehicles should park along Florida Avenue. Race Finish Headquarters will be located at the end of Florida Avenue. Support crew members must walk along The Boardwalk from Florida Avenue to the Finish in Kennedy Plaza.

The Boardwalk

Here racers will meet a RAE staff member who will give instructions for proceeding to the Finish. The racers will be held to allow the support crew time to get to Kennedy Plaza for the Finish. Upon release, the racers will proceed slowly along The Boardwalk to Kennedy Plaza– keeping to the right and avoiding pedestrians.

Kennedy Plaza

When the racer(s) arrive at Kennedy Plaza, photographers will take pictures of the racer(s) and crew under the finish banner and then direct the racer(s) to the stage. racer(s) will receive their Finishers Medal. The emcee will ask a few questions and then invite the crew on stage for more photos.

Kennedy Plaza will be the hub for RAE and RAAM finishes. The RAE Staff will be at the Finish line to greet the racers as they arrive. The area will be staffed 24-hours per day to accommodate arriving racers. The Finish Line, inflatable truss, stage and RAAM/RAE Store will all be located in Kennedy Plaza. Kennedy Plaza will be up and operating from Wednesday until Sunday afternoon.



Race Finish Headquarters

Race Finish Headquarters will be located at the end of Florida Avenue, adjacent to The Boardwalk. Donations of food, clothing, other sundries, bikes tubes & tires, etc. will be accepted at Race Finish Headquarters on Florida Avenue. Please participate in our donation and recycle programs.

Note: Actual finish area set-up and finishing procedures are subject to final adjustment.

Atlantic City is a shining coastal destination as well as home to America's oldest boardwalk. Investments in recent years have elevated Atlantic City's appeal. Visitors can now enjoy celebrity-chef restaurants, sumptuous spas, family-friendly activities, cultural attractions, casinos, shopping and more. There are over 5 miles of clean, white, sandy beaches. The world-famous Boardwalk features novelty shops, eateries, amusement parks, volleyball courts, beach bars and more. Atlantic City has always been about entertainment, a must stop location for popular Jersey Shore events – top musical acts in concert, championship boxing matches, celebrity sightings and more. Of course, there are the casinos with exceptional dining and exciting live entertainment. Atlantic City has it all – arts, culture, museums, boating, fishing, watersports. The greater Atlantic City region features championship caliber golf courses.

Atlantic City is a great place to celebrate your finish!

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL RACERS TO COME DOWN AND GREET OTHER RACERS AS THEY ARRIVE. YOU HAVE ALL WORKED VERY HARD TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL AND IT IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED WHEN WE SHOW SUPPORT FOR EACH OTHER.

