

# NAATSISAAN TRAIL ULTRA & 2-PERSON RELAY

Navajo Mountain & Rainbow Bridge, Utah  
October 29, 2016 5:00 a.m.



Yaateeh runners! Welcome to the inaugural Naatsisaan Trail Ultra

REGISTRATION – Online registration for the **Naatsisaan Trail Ultra** and the **Two-person Relay** is now open through noon on Friday, October 21 (one week before the race) at the NavajoYES website: [www.navajoyes.org](http://www.navajoyes.org). Registration will be closed at that time and there will be no on-site registration. The 50-Mile Trail Race is capped at 25 runners and the relay is capped at 50 two-person teams. Registration for the 50-Miler is \$100; entry for the two-person team is \$225.

Registration includes on-course support at major checkpoints, pre-race food at Navajo Mountain on Friday, light race morning breakfast, post-race food at Navajo Mountain Chapter House, long-sleeve tech shirt, race poster, finisher's medal and overall and age-group awards. *Relay team fee includes boat transport by Antelope Point Marina craft for one team member from Page, Arizona to Rainbow Bridge, and transport for the second member from Rainbow Bridge back to Page.*

COURSE & CHECKPOINTS– Both races begin and finish at the Navajo Mountain Chapter House on the southern flank of Navajo Mountain (Naatsisaan). All checkpoints will have energy gels, salty and high carb foods, medical support, communication and some fluids. Each checkpoint will include some shelter, sleeping bags/blankets and heat sources. The course is marked with pin flags, some signage and there will be spotters in key places; however, **runners must study the course map, attend Friday's mandatory runner meeting and be familiar with the route; runners should possess some basic route-finding skills**. Runners may choose to include GPS system, personal locator device and/or satellite phone in their personal kit.

Below is a description of the route:

- The race begins on a paved surface of N16 to the “four-way” near Navajo Mountain’s schools. After hitting the dirt, the road quickly becomes more rugged and then a 4 x 4 route before arriving at the Rainbow Trailhead at 8.5 miles in from the chapter house. This major checkpoint is the final vehicle-accessible spot for at least the next 32 miles.
- The first seven miles on the Rainbow Trail are rugged challenging terrain, including crossing of Cha Canyon and the daunting Bald Rock Canyon. After climbing out of the west side of Bald Rock, the route skirts the canyons and eventually drops runner in to Surprise Valley, where the second checkpoint awaits you.
- After departing the checkpoint, the trail climbs out of the Valley and skirts the dramatic northern flank of Natsisaan. The trail dips through Oak Canyon and down 1.5 miles through “the furnace” en route to Bridge Canyon.
- Upon entering Bridge Canyon, the trail winds 4.0 miles through the canyons on your way to the turnaround point at Rainbow Bridge. The turnaround point is the final checkpoint on the course, 25 miles from the chapter house. Second-leg relay runners: welcome to the trail!

- The second half of the 50-mile race re-traces the first 25 miles, with significant climbing on the route back to the chapter house.

RUNNER RESPONSIBILITIES: ***Runners must have a water purification system and be prepared to utilize the perennial water sources on the route:*** Cha Canyon, Bald Rock Canyon, Surprise Valley (Nasja Creek), Oak Canyon and Bridge Canyon. Runners will need to be prepared for extreme weather conditions and have the appropriate gear to accommodate such conditions. Appropriate rain gear and footwear are essential. Hypothermia can be a real threat in the high desert in the fall season, and runners must be prepared for the potential onset of such conditions.

PACKET PICK-UP & MANDATORY MEETING – Packet pick-up will be available at the Navajo Mountain Chapter House on Friday afternoon and evening, beginning at 12:00 noon. ***The Friday afternoon meeting at the Navajo Mountain Chapter House will provide essential information about the race course and logistics for race day. All runners are required to attend this meeting. DO NOT SIGN UP IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THIS MANDATORY MEETING.***

The meeting will commence at 2:00 p.m. and will include a full course description and other pertinent race information, gear check, a weather outlook and emergency preparedness discussion. Race officials, Navajo Rangers, Parks & Rec staff, course marshals and tribal officials will all offer important information during this time.

LODGING/CAMPING – The Navajo Mountain Chapter House is offering camping space and indoor camping on both Friday and Saturday nights. The closest hotel is Anasazi Inn (about 85 miles from the chapter house), which is ten miles west of Kayenta, Arizona. Page, Arizona (about 105 miles from the start line) has multiple lodging and camping options, north on U.S. Highway 98.

AWARDS – There are awards in the 50-mile trail race and relay division, to be announced.

WEATHER – The weather in the Navajo Mountain area, including the surrounding canyons, can be very volatile. Runners should be prepared for rapid changes in conditions, and should be prepared for rainy conditions, wind, snow and cold. Sections of the trail (between Cha – Bald Rock Canyon and Surprise Valley – Oak Canyon, for example) are extremely exposed. There are no structures or vehicle support between mile 8 and mile 42.

The Naatsisaan Trail Ultra and Two-person Relay and the Navajo Parks Race Series are organized by the Navajo Nation-based nonprofit organization Y.E.S. for Dine' Bikeyah (NavajoYES), with major support from Navajo Parks & Recreation, Office of Navajo President & Vice President, Navajo Mountain Chapter, Division of Natural Resources, Lake Powell Navajo Tribal Park, Antelope Point Marina, Navajo Arts & Crafts, National Park Service – Rainbow Bridge and the Navajo Rangers.

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