

Detailed Course Description

Note: Long Course (Fully) is identical with Short Course (Shorty) except that the Short Course ends where the race began on Yoder Rd. Long Course continues past the start to Talkeetna Spur Rd and destinations north.

Course Marking: Course will be marked with a combination of pink pin flags, orange cones, blue arrow signs, orange turn around signs, and potentially humans. ALWAYS follow course markings on your RIGHT, ignoring any markings on your left. As the course features several out-and-back sections, you will sometimes see markings on both sides of the road – remember, always follow markings on your righthand side. There are two turnarounds on the course, one on Montana Creek Rd near the junction with the Parks Hwy (Short and Long Course), and one on Mastodon Rd (Long Course only) – these will be marked with orange signs with a U-turn arrow, saying “Bikes Turn Around”. Simply turn around once adjacent with the sign.

Long & Short Course: The 2023 Talkeetna Grinder begins on Yoder Rd near its intersection with Lakeview St. Riders will head east along Yoder Rd approximately 3.5 miles until it bears south becoming E Montana Creek Rd (not to be confused with S Montana Creek Rd). Riders then follow E Montana Creek Rd approximately 2 miles before arriving at Dead End and End of Road Maintenance signs – ignore these as they are relevant to cars only. Continue past these signs, staying alert as the course becomes somewhat technical for the next 2 miles (narrow, rutted, rocky, loose, etc.). Road names change here, but don't bother looking for road signs – just follow the markings. In the middle of this section is the charming Beaver Dam feature, a short mandatory water crossing that is rideable but that may result in wet feet. Wave to the hut-sized dam where the beavers live! After 2 miles riders will emerge onto a wider road, albeit with chunkier gravel. This is Montana Creek Rd. Riders continue on Montana Creek Rd west, then south, then south-west (look for cones and follow markings) approximately 5.5 miles to the turnaround. The turnaround will be marked with an orange sign saying “Bikes Turn Around” – possibly with a corresponding human. After turning around, riders will proceed back the way they came, approximately 2.5 miles until they reach Leroy Davie Dr on their right. Riders will take a right on Leroy Davie, heading south, then east, then south for 1.25 miles until they reach Future Rd. Riders will take a left onto Future Rd, then head east .75 miles before turning right onto an unnamed road/ATV trail. At the entrance to this road, riders will see a number of vehicles parked on either side – these belong to residents of properties beyond this point, where cars dare not tread. Continue south past the vehicles on this increasingly narrow, rocky and splashy road. You are now entering the technical crux of the course, where you should expect highly irregular surfaces, large and small stones, frequent large puddles, a few more extensive water holes, and some steep, loose grades. Most of the “water features” have rocky bottoms and are perfectly rideable. Some are avoidable on the sides, although you may have to charge an alder branch to get by. Surface composition is alternately rocky, muddy, sandy – enjoy! After about 1 mile you will arrive at Goose Creek and a fairly rustic bridge comprised of wooden planks, and large enough for ATVs or small jeeps to cross. Be careful crossing this bridge as it may be slippery when wet. The safest line is right down the center. Continue past the bridge through some more twists and turns approximately .5 miles until you begin to head due east on what is technically E Big Mountain Rd (again, follow markings and don't look for road signs). Riders will continue east 1.5 miles, towards the end of which they will encounter Big Hog Wallow and Easy Hill – an extensive water hole leading directly into a very steep, chunky hill – be prepared for wet feet and grinding gears. Over the hill and down, riders will pass the

Vista West subdivision sign (truly a subdivision like no other!), before turning right on what is technically E Ski Trek Rd – look for markings and do not accidentally turn onto the road immediately prior the Vista West sign. Riders will now complete a wild little 2.5 mile loop around a true residential oasis. This section will be marked with pink pin flags only. You will start by heading south for 1 mile, before turning left and working your way back through numerous turns. If you go off course here you will be on someone's property, and most property is well-marked as such. After another 1.5 miles you will find yourself back on E Big Mountain Rd heading west. From here you will go back the way you came, retracing your route over the Goose Creek bridge, past the vehicles to Future Rd. Riders will turn left onto Future Rd, heading west to Leroy Davie Dr. Riders will turn right on Leroy Davie, heading north, then west, then north again, exiting Leroy Davie straight north onto Montana Creek Rd. Riders will then take Montana Creek Rd back the way they came, eventually passing another Dead End and End of Road Maintenance sign, proceeding through the technical squeeze, past the Beaver Dam and up some steep hills before reconnecting with E Montana Creek Rd. From here, riders will head back north along E Montana Creek until it becomes Yoder Rd bearing west. The Short Course finishes back at the start on Yoder Rd. Shorties – Hooray you're done! Long Ones – continue reading below.

Long Course after Short Course Finish: Long Coursers will continue past the start area to Talkeetna Spur Rd. Riders will turn right on Talkeetna Spur, being cautious of high speed traffic when entering the roadway. Riders will head north along Talkeetna Spur for almost .5 miles to S Noel Wein Ave. Riders will turn right on S Noel Wein Ave, heading north .5 miles to Moose Hollow Ave. Riders will take a right on Moose Hollow Ave, heading east about 1 mile until it becomes Hillside Dr, and continuing east another .5 miles until the road bends north and becomes S Mt Brooks Dr. Riders will then bear left onto S Mt Brooks Dr and head north 1 mile to E Foraker Dr. Riders will turn left onto E Foraker Dr, heading west .5 miles to Mt Hunter Dr. before bearing left onto Mt Hunter Dr and heading south 1 mile to Hillside Dr. Riders will exit Mt Hunter Dr right onto Hillside Dr – be careful here as the turn is tight and you are carrying downhill speed. Riders will then proceed back the way they came, west on Hillside/Moose Hollow, south on Noel Wein back to Talkeetna Spur Rd. Riders will then turn right onto Talkeetna Spur, again being cautious of highspeed traffic when entering the roadway. Riders will head north on Talkeetna Spur approximately 3.5 miles to Barge Rd. Riders will take a right onto Barge Rd, heading east past S Riven St, where Barge briefly becomes an ATV trail before magically becoming a real road again, about 2.5 miles until the road bends north and becomes Barce Rd (not kidding). Riders will bear left on Barce Rd, continuing north .25 miles before turning right onto S Birch Creek Blvd. Continue east on S Birch Creek Blvd 1.25 miles to Mastodon Rd. Take a left onto Mastodon Rd, heading north, then east, then north again approximately 3.5 miles to the turnaround. The turnaround will be marked by an orange sign that says "Bikes Turn Around" – when you see it, turn around. Riders will then head back the way they came down Mastodon Rd, turning right onto S Birch Creek Blvd. Riders will head west on S Birch Creek Blvd past Barce Rd (don't turn back onto Barce – go straight!) approximately 3 miles to the finish. Finish is along S Birch Creek Blvd. Double Hooray! – you've done it! Now "cool down" by riding 4 additional miles back to your car!