

12Hr PGC Race Final Update

General: Hello Pocket Gopher racers. We are 5 days until race day. I am going to keep this very short so you can keep getting ready for the race.

What Do I Do Next: Here is what you need to do before the next update

1. If you have not read race update 1 please do so first
2. Get a USARA membership. (This is a requirement and will not be available the day of the race, please bring your USARA number to the race)
3. Sign the USARA Waiver and print it. I cannot let you race without a waiver and waivers will not be available at the race so please make sure you print and sign your waiver
4. Review the 12hr Race Schematics. You won't see these at all AR races, but they are always at expedition races, and they will help you
5. Review the 12hr Race Cutsheet. Vital information is available on the cutsheet
6. I will not be printing the race schematics or the race cutsheet, but you are welcome to print them and bring them on the course. I highly recommend it.

Race Number: Race numbers are now out. You will be responsible for marking your own bag and paddle with your race number. It can be simple duct tape but I am not providing race numbers. Just make sure my volunteers can read it

Raft Drop: The Raft drop is just off highway 54 near Randolph MN. Here is the pin drop

https://maps.app.goo.gl/STkxvntVBBErcrjQ9?q_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy

If you have the google map app on your smart phone you can also use this grid locator but it only works in google maps

GXCQ+6M3 Randolph, Minnesota

Race Start: The official Race start will be located at the Nerstrand AG Center in Nerstrand MN. Our Races follow the ARWS format in that we believe racers should be given every opportunity to finish the course without being penalized. Our 12hr race means the course is designed as a 12-hour race and most teams will finish within 12 hours. However, we are giving you an added 4 hours to finish the race and still be an official finisher! After 16 hours our course closes and we will come looking for you and you will be considered unofficial at the that time, but I do not see that happening.

Raft Building: Please see Race Update1 for complete instructions. I just wanted to add a few comments here based off questions I have received

1. You can NOT bring a packraft or other like type of completely assembled raft. That would take all the fun out of it
2. You CAN bring inner tubes, pool floaties, pool noodles, milk jugs, or anything else you imagination can think of as long as you can put it in a garbage bag and seal it
3. If you want to change clothes, socks etc that's fine but if you leave anything behind at the TA that you want to be brought back to the finish line it MUST be in the garbage bag when you leave
4. You will NOT have to carry your backpack on the rafting section but make sure you bring your scorecard
5. Your PFDS and paddles do not have to go in your garbage bag but please make sure they are labeled

Race Time line:

06:00 Race HQ Opens

06:00 TA 3 Raft building drop off opens for Bag/PFD/Paddle drops

08:00 Race Starts

20:00 Lead Racers will come in

23:59 Race Course Closes

The Course: Again please see update 1.

1. The only additional item I want to add is map plotter are no longer required. If you have one I would bring it, but I have plotted everything for you. I am getting to soft in my old age
2. TA 2 is mandatory. You must check in at the bike shop. If the bike shop is closed a sign in sheet will be left outside. Please do not forget to sign into TA 2.
3. GPS tracker. I decided to get GPS trackers for the 12hr course so now all your family and friends can dot watch you!! The link is <https://live.enabledtracking.com/pg2024-12/>

Gear List Adds: There is only one add on to the gear list

1. Each team needs to have enough bike locks/bike loops to be able to lock up their bikes at unmanned checkpoints

Closing: Again, thank you for selecting my race and again do not hesitate to ask questions. This race is not designed to trick you or frustrate you, that's not our goal. This race is designed to challenge you and I hope it does. As an intermediate racer you make think about quitting at some point, my last piece of advice is DO NOT. Sit down, take a deep breath, take it one step at a time. You can do this, whether its one kilometer at a time, one meter at a time or one centimeter at a time keep moving forward, I promise you will not forget it. Challenge yourself. "When is the last time you did something for the first time" Until race day train hard and I will see you on the high ground!!

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