

Sierra Prieta 50k Race Manual

Quick Info

What: 50k in the Sierra Prieta Mountains west of Prescott, Az

When: 6:00am August 15, 2026

Where: Thumb Butte Trailhead 34.55214172, -112.5212634

Schedule

Friday: 2:00pm-6:00pm: Packet Pickup at The Hike Shack
Address: 104 N Montezuma St, Prescott, AZ 86301
6:00pm: Highly Recommended Course Briefing and Race Meeting

Saturday: 5:00am: Procrastinators Check In at Start/Finish
6:00am: Race Start
6:00pm: Race Finish

Sponsors

This race along with all the future and present Prescott races is brought to you by The Hike Shack. <https://thehikeshack.com/>

In addition we have partnered up with Open Fuel for nutrition at all the aid stations. They will be providing drink mix at all aid stations. <https://openfuel.co>

Can't Buy Cool Studios will give every runner a free locking flask.
<https://cantbuycoolstudios.com/>

I will probably rope Norda into something as well but they don't know it yet.
<https://nordarun.com/?country=US>

Rules

In short be an adult. Take care of yourself and don't be a burden on others around you. This is not a road half marathon, where childish behavior is tolerated.

Run the correct course in the allotted amount of time. If you cheat we will know it and you will be banned from ultrarunning.

If you are rude to the staff or volunteers in any way we will pull you from my race zero exceptions. This race is not possible without the volunteers and they are taking days out of there lives to help you wander around in the forest and end up in the same place you started. Don't be a dick.

Outside aid from humans, gas stations, any other source is fine. We actually encourage you to interact with other users of the trail.

Dogs: Follow county and City guidelines.

Don't litter. If you drop gear or clothing on the trail expecting a sweeper to bring it back for you, you will be disappointed.

Gear Requirements

We hate races with mandatory gear. With that said **YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO CARRY A CELL PHONE**. In this phone you will have two phone numbers.

Michael Versteeg (Race Director) 9285338191

Kilian Lord (Race Director) 9284589194

These phone numbers will also be written on the back of your bib as well as the address for the start/finish line.

You will also be required to carry a device (watch or phone) capable of downloading and following the GPX of your race. (See course description section for GPX files and directions).

This is both a safety measure and a practical necessity. While the course will be marked well, we are predicting and assuming some sections **WILL GET TAMPERED WITH**. If you get lost the first thing I will ask you is if you have your watch or phone with the course map on it.

Bring it. No excuses.

Its very likely that it could rain in the afternoon. If you are a mid or back of the packer it would be highly recommended to have a rain fly. This is monsoon season in the desert.

Gear Shops

Everything you could possibly need can be found at The Hike Shack in downtown Prescott. Tell them you are a Prescott Area Trail Runner and they will give you a discount. If we find out you went to REI to buy anything while you are here we will ban you from Ultra Running and disqualify you from not just this race but from all your other races. They aren't cheaper, they eat children, they ruin lives.

Minimum Pace Times and Cutoffs

2.64 mph, 22.43 min/mile. Period. See the aid station chart for exact times. **THESE TIMES ARE WHEN YOU NEED TO HAVE LEFT THE AID STATION**. Zero exceptions, and extremely strict. If you get to the aid station before the cutoff and haven't left by said time you will be pulled.

Pacers

No!

Parking Please Read Extremely Important

The Forest Service is allowing us to use the Thumb Butte recreation area for the start finish, there is a \$5.00 parking fee for each car. We are going to try and see if there's a way for us to prepay for parking if you plan to park, but if not, you will need to fill out a little parking envelope, put 5 dollars in it and put it in the Kiosk at the trailhead, we will help with this at the start line. One car per runner, if you can get dropped off that would be even better, this is a popular trailhead but there are 80 total parking spaces so there should be enough parking.

Crew

Crews are allowed at aid station 1&3 (Cattle Guard) but only on foot or bike. **No crew vehicles will be allowed access to the aid stations.** There is no parking available at any aid station.

In order to access the aid stations you will need to either be familiar with the roads/trails and how to get there, or use the course map to navigate on trails

[Sierra Prieta - CalTopo](#)

With that said these are public lands. If you know the trails and know the area you are welcome to find your runner as long as you are parking legally at trailheads, and not interfering with public right of ways, public use of trails, roads, or in any other way being a problem for the race. The trailheads up copper basin are good options.

Access

Cattle Guard Aid 1&3 (mile 8.6 & 23.8) 34.50482, -112.55588

From the start finish, continue west and south on Thumb Butte road for 5.5 miles until reaching the Sierra Prieta Overlook, which is where Aid Station 1&3 will be. This is a bumpy dirt road, and there is no parking at the aid station, you could find a pull out somewhere along the DIRT road and hike into the Aid Station, again, no parking at the aid station.

Quartz Mnt Aid Access 34.50337, -112.49666

No crew access for this Aid Station.

As a crew member you are an extension of your runner so follow the same rules and be considerate of other users (not limited to race participants). You absolutely can get your runner disqualified with inappropriate behavior.

Aid Stations

Due to health department regulations we are not allowed to cook food. Your crew and or volunteers can if they choose to. To offset this we will be allowing drop bags at every aid station. We also will stock the aid stations with the most elaborate single serving aid station you will have

ever seen. Expect all your typical stuff here but with extra single serving meals and high-density caloric stuff. We will get creative to make sure every runner has what they need.

We will have a small selection of vegan and gluten free options.

Open Fuel will be providing drink mix at all aid stations. <https://openfuel.co>

If you have specific dietary needs beyond the scope of a typical aid station, please utilize your drop bags.

Sierra Prieta Aid Station Info						
Name	Location	Mile Total	Miles to Next Aid	Crew Access?	Cutoff Time 12 hrs	Drop Bags
Start (Thumb Butte)	34.55214172, -112.5212634	0	8.6	Yes	6:00 AM	No
Cattle Guard 1	34.50482, -112.55588	8.6	7.3	Walk/Bike In	9:15 AM	Yes
Quartz Mountain	34.50337, -112.49666	15.9	7.9	No	12:01 PM	Yes
Cattle Guard 2	34.50482, -112.55588	23.8	7.9	Walk/Bike In	3:01 PM	Yes
Finish (Thumb Butte)	34.55214172, -112.5212634	31.7	0	Yes	6:00 PM	No
				See note on crew access in manual	2.64 mph 22.43 min/mile STRICT!	Same drop bag

Drop Bags

As noted in the Aid Station section, we are allowing drop bags at all three aid stations. You will have one drop bag for both Cattle Guard 1 (mi 8.3) and Cattle Guard(mi 23.8). This is the same

location, so pack enough for two trips through. Your second drop bag will be for Quartz Mountain(mi 15.9).

All drop bags must be dropped off in their appropriate pile at the start line before the race starts on Saturday morning. We will not be offering friday drop offs.

We will not be mailing out left dropped bags so if you leave it you will never see it again.

Medical and Emergencies

Non emergency situations please call the numbers you have saved in your phone and on the back of your bibs. Shit happens, I get it. Do not call 911 if you need to drop in between aid stations or aren't feeling good. 99% of the time situations can be resolved without involving the feds.

In the case of a life threatening or dangerous emergency, call 911 and the numbers on your bib and inform the race what is going on.

Weather

August in Arizona is hot! It is also monsoon season. It is very likely we could experience afternoon showers and lighting. Bring a rain fly! **We will monitor the weather as the race approaches and may make it mandatory to carry a rain fly come race day.**

Course Marking

The entire course will be marked with pink flags. Junctions will also have arrow and wrong way signs when necessary. As stated earlier, we are anticipating some course tampering due to the high use nature of many of these trails. Bring your phone, have the route enabled with a gps device.

Course Maps, GPX, and Descriptions

Quicklinks to GPS and Online Maps

[Sierra Prieta - CalTopo](#)

Distance: 31.71 mi

Elevation Range: 5697' to 7025'

Elevation Gain: +4448'

Caltopo Links:

Full GPX Route for Downloading to watch and Phone

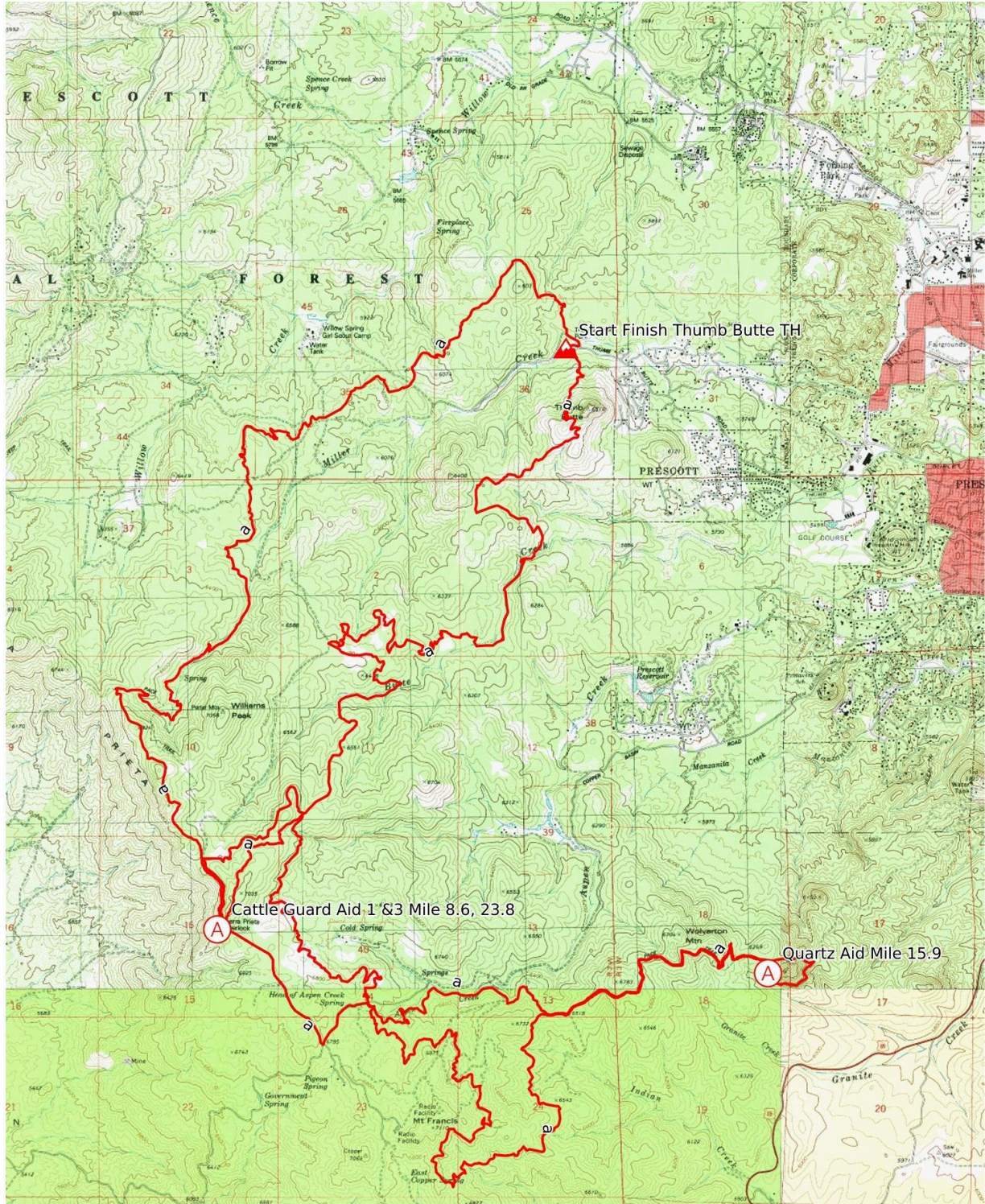
[Sierra Prieta - CalTopo](#)

Download Directions (Desktop)

1. Click export under map objects
2. Select GPX under format.
3. 4. Download.
5. Open file using your gps app.

Cell Phone

1. Click folder icon in upper left toolbar (below the ruler)
2. Click export
3. Select GPX under format
4. Deselect the crew aid access routes leaving only 'Sierra Prieta 50k'
5. Open file using your gps app



Mercator Projection
WGS84
UTM Zone 12S




d

range 5696' to 7024' gain 4446' loss 4452' exaggeration 50.4x



Slope Angle (top), Land Cover (middle), Tree Cover (bottom)

