

Birkie Trail Run Festival

Frequently Asked Questions

During these times of uncertainty, we remain committed to providing inspiring opportunities to promote a healthy active lifestyle and wellness events for all. While we may not have all of the answers today, we promise you this:

- The 2020 Birkie Trail Run will happen, it may just look differently than it traditionally does.
- You'll receive your race bib and your participant SWAG
- We will take every safety precaution and measure to ensure the safety of our participants, volunteers, staff, and the greater community.

Following are some of the questions you've submitted. This list will be continually updated. Please check back frequently for updates.

FAQ's – Updated as of 8/5/20

- **Will there be changes to the Birkie Trail Run event?**
 - Yes, there will be safety related changes made to the Birkie Trail Run 2020. We are working closely with public health officials on safety protocols and are developing plans accordingly. Any changes or adjustments will be announced closer to the event.
- **When do you think you'll know what the final plan is for Birkie Trail Run 2020?**
 - During these dynamic times and given the unpredictability of COVID19, we won't know what specific changes may need to be implemented to the plan until much closer to event day. We are developing multiple scenarios and are working with local officials now in anticipation of potential adjustments to the overall flow of the Birkie Trail Run event. We'll be communicating changes as they are known. Keep checking back on the Birkie Event Update Page for the latest details.
- **Will you be canceling the event for COVID19 or for public health reasons?**
 - We promise you that there will be an event of some sort. It may look differently than it does in a traditional year, however, we'll make certain that all registered participants have the opportunity to compete whether in-person or virtually, in addition to receiving their Birkie Trail Run bib and t-shirt.
- **If I am uncomfortable attending the event, can I run the event virtually?**
 - Yes! When you register you can select the "Virtual" option and participate from wherever you are. You'll still receive your bib, your shirt, and will submit your time. More details to be posted soon.
- **If I already registered for the event, can I change from in-person participation to virtual?**
 - Yes, if you or your team would like to change your registration to a virtual option, it will be possible. Details on how to change your registration are coming soon!
- **If you cancel the event, will I get a refund, or will you defer my registration until 2021?**
 - We will be hosting a Birkie Trail Run in September; however, it may look differently than in a traditional year. Participant registration fees are used to cover the costs that are incurred when an event is planned, for instance: full-time staff to coordinate and execute the event plan, purchase of t-shirts, ordering of bibs, aid station supplies, procuring of communication radios, maintenance of the trail, event infrastructure (Porta-Potties, signage, etc.). Given that, we are unable to issue refunds or deferrals on registration fees. Please let us know if you have any questions.

- **How will you manage physical distancing between runners in the start/finish areas and on-course?**
 - We are working to determine the appropriate race start procedure and timing to ensure participants will stay distanced on the course. Participants should expect to see changes in the start times and potentially even the courses to ensure physical distancing can be maintained.
- **How many people will you have in start gates?**
 - We are working to determine the appropriate number of runners and trekkers in each starting corral. We are cognizant of the need to spread participants out on the trail and to keep from overcrowding aid stations.
- **How will you keep runners 6' apart?**
 - We will start fewer runners at a time in order to avoid crowding on the trail. However, individual runners and trekkers must be accountable for their own physical distancing on the trail.
- **Will we have to wear masks?**
 - Participants will be required to wear a mask in the start and finish areas, in addition to having a mask on their person in case of an emergency on the trail. Participants will not be required to wear a mask on course.
- **Will masks be mandatory?**
 - While we cannot predict the status of COVID19 in September, we are working closely with Sawyer and Bayfield County Public Health officials to put in place recommendations for all participants to comply with local regulations and to keep participants, volunteers, and staff as safe as possible. If a countywide or statewide mask order is in place requiring residents to wear a mask, participants would, in turn, be mandated to wear a mask. Participants will be required to wear a mask in the start and finish areas, in addition to having a mask on their person in case of an emergency on the trail. Participants will not be required to wear a mask on course.
- **Is the 2020 Birkie Trail Run still a cup-less event?**
 - Yes, as in 2019, runners and trekkers will be required to carry their own hydration vessel. Although hydration and energy will be available at aid stations, for safety reasons, we strongly encourage participants to carry their own hydration and energy during their event.
- **What will aid stations be like on the Birkie Trail Run course?**
 - Participants may have to carry more of their own energy needs. We will provide you with the energy items you would normally receive at an aid station, in your race packet, along with your bib and shirt. Aid stations will have touchless water systems in place and nuun will be available – participants must carry their own cup. There will be fewer volunteers at aid stations so participants will need to be more self-reliant.
- **Will you ban spitting on the Trail?**
 - We ask participants to be aware of others around them and to be courteous in their actions. If a runner must spit, we ask them to please move to the side of the trail and make sure no one is in direct line behind them.
- **Does the registration insurance available on the event page at Birkie.com cover a pandemic?**
 - The optional AIG Regsaver registration insurance policy, as offered on individual Birkie event pages, will cover your registration if you are ill, injured, or if another covered peril occurs. For specifics on what is covered, please [click here](#). Registration insurance will not cover event cancellation due to a pandemic.
- **Will we share a slap bracelet if we run on a relay team?**
 - No, relay teams will not share items this year. In lieu of slap bracelets, there will be two lines on the ground at the aid stations. When the first team member crosses the first line, the next relay member may leave from the second line found 6 feet away.
- **Will there be a Dive for the Dirt or 1K race for kids at the Birkie Trail Run 2020?**
 - No, knowing it is challenging for young children to socially distance, we have opted to remove the Dive for the Dirt and 1k kid-focused events from the Birkie Trail Run in 2020.
- **Will there be camping offered at the American Birkebeiner Trailhead for Birkie Trail Run 2020?**
 - No, there will not be a camping option available this year. We recommend exploring other campground options such as Two Lakes campground (only 13 miles from the start - as long as Forest Service campgrounds are still open at that time), KOA on Highway 63 near Hayward, or any of the other campgrounds in the area.

- **I am traveling from outside the Hayward area, is there anything I need to know?**
 - We've shared links to the Bayfield and Sawyer County Public Health Departments for your convenience in identifying the current public health status in the area. Safe travel practices are a shared responsibility between permanent and seasonal residents, area visitors, municipalities, the tourism industry, local businesses and workplaces to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. If you are traveling to the Hayward and Cable areas for the Birkie Trail Run, we encourage you to consider making it a daytrip and to be as self-sufficient as possible.
- **Can I bring my family with me to the Birkie Trail Run?**
 - To avoid the unnecessary congregation of people, we are asking that spectators not join participants at the Birkie Trail Run. We realize that running in an event may not feel the same without cheering spectators, however, we're working to find ways for your friends and family to cheer you on from afar. Standby for more details in the near future.

This list of questions will be updated regularly. If you have a question that is not mentioned above, please submit it to us at birkie@birkie.com. Please check back often.