

THE 50 MILE COURSE

The 50 Mile run brings you first to the climb up Raven's Ridge. Then it's a nice wide dirt access road down to the Big Tesuque Campground Aid Station. I hope you enjoy these sections because you will be following it in the reverse direction to the finish. In the mean time you will make your way back to the start line and the next aid station. Now it's down the upper Rio En Medio Trail from Ski Santa Fe to Forest Rd. 412 and around Aspen Ranch. The 50K and 50M routes divert near Aspen Ranch, 50-mile runners continue north along the Borrego trail, to the Rio Nambe and the trail down along the river.. Runners travel across technical rocky terrain in the dark. Due to recent forest fires, there may be some downed trees. We have tried to clear these but when a tree falls in the forest who is there to clear the trail? This section has a wilderness feel, so follow course markings closely

Following the Rio Nambe trail down along the river on rugged single track you will reach the confluence of the Nambe and Capulin drainages. Here runners cross back over the Rio Nambe toward the lower Rio En Medio via the Viejo Trail. The course eventually descends and merges with the 50k course at the Rio En Medio aid station.

The 50k and 50m courses join at the REM aid station and continue along beautiful single track with rolling hard packed trail mixed with tight canyon washes before exiting onto Pacheco Canyon road. The mile-long section of dirt road is open to vehicles but is steep approaching the 2nd aid station. From here, runners will scramble up a short ridge parallel to the road for a ¼ mile or so before connecting with a newly established network of trails known as the Discount and Lost Wrangler trails. They are a mix of historic trails that cut across the grain of the lower juniper studded foothills above the village of Tesuque. There are countless short ascents and descents through this 6 mile section. At times it is very rocky but runnable, and runners enjoy distinct differences in vegetation with every change in elevation and aspect. The final several miles to the Winsor Trail are exciting ridge-running with views of the Rio Grande valley, Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque, and Jemez mountains to the west. The climbing begins in earnest when you reach the Winsor National Recreation Trail. Up up up to the Borrego Aid Station.

Runners return to the Winsor Trail after a trip to the Borrego/Bear Wallow aid station and on toward the Big Tesuque Trail up to the ski basin road and Big Tesuque Campground. All that remains is a steady 2,400 feet of vertical gain toward the top of Tesuque Peak before the final 2 1/2 mile descent to the finish.

THE 50K COURSE

The 50-Kilometer course-departs the lower end of Ski Santa Fe parking area on the Rio En Medio Trail. Runners jump right onto the steep and rocky Rio En Medio trail before a smooth cruise along the historic Chupadero acequia.

There is a cross-country feel to this upper section before emerging at the forest service road adjacent to Aspen Ranch. The course crosses the road and continues around Aspen Ranch before descending back to the first river crossing of the Rio En Medio. There is a split at the river crossing where the 50-mile and 50-kilometer courses divert. The 50k course continues down the Rio En Medio drainage for several miles traveling through meadows, and a steep rocky canyon with numerous short creek crossings before reaching the first aid station. From Ski Santa Fe to the first aid station runners enjoy 6 miles downhill!

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From here it is a steady ascent up the lower Winsor trail along the Big Tesuque creek. There are numerous stream crossings and runners can expect to get wet as the route pushes upward toward the Bear Wallow and Borrego trailhead. Runners meet the ski basin road and the Borrego aid station via the Bear Wallow trail and then return to the Winsor trail via the Borrego trail. This entire section, all the way up to Big Tesuque campground and on toward Tesuque Peak, is a challenge for any runner for its continuous uphill. Fortunately, much of this section is shaded under a canopy of pine and aspen.

After crossing the ski basin road/Big Tesuque aid station, the course merges with both the 13-mile course and 50-mile course continuing up Aspen Vista Road to the top of Tesuque Peak. The final aid station near the summit should help runners fuel up before the final descent to the base lodge at Ski Santa Fe.

THE 13-MILE COURSE

The course begins by traveling down the Windsor trail parallel to the ski basin road. Crossing the Norski parking area, the trail drops down into the Big Tesuque drainage connecting with the Big Tesuque trail and heading back up toward the Big Tesuque campground. Runners cross over the ski basin road through the Big “T” campground and merge with Aspen Vista Road. Upon reaching Tesuque Peak and the top of Ski Santa Fe, runners finish with a downhill run across designated slopes to the Base Lodge at Ski Santa Fe.

THE UPHILL MILE COURSE

It’s only a mile right? Just a lonely mile climbing 850 feet up the ski slopes under the chairlift. From the starting line runners work their way up to Totemoff’s, the popular bar and grill way station during the ski season. From Totemoff’s the steepest route is up the ski run called Slalom. Your ascent of this run leaves you weaving and wheezing at the top for this first steep section. Run across a flatish section now to the biggest steepest slope yet: This ski run is called Muerte, Spanish for death. But at the top you have never felt more alive as you cross the finish line. The fun part is the chairlift ride down.