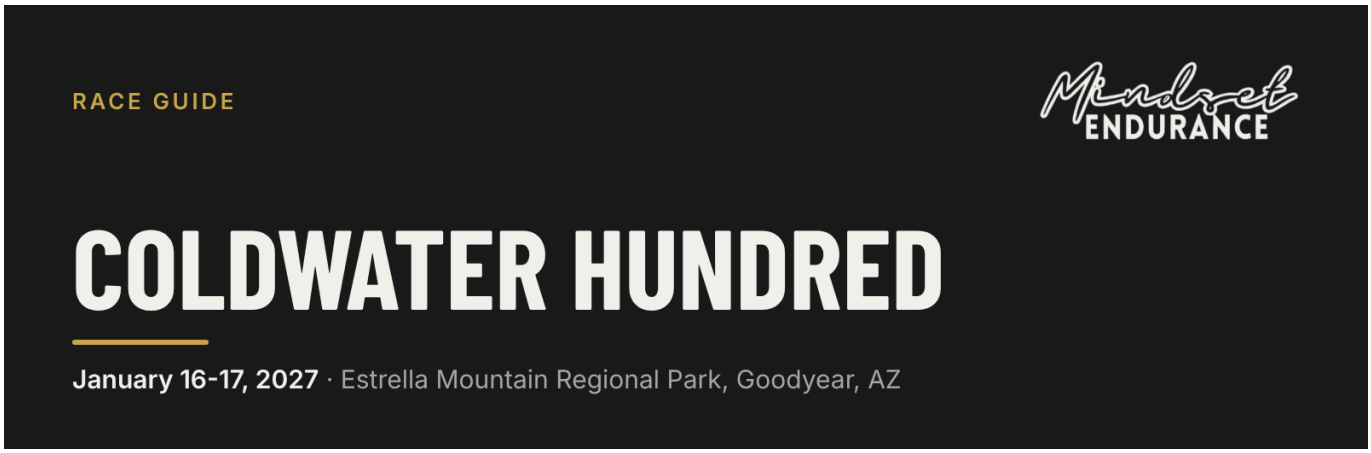
Coldwater Hundred Race Guide



https://www.aravaiparunning.com/coldwater/

Aravaipa Running

Aravaipa Running puts on the Coldwater Hundred. Aaron Barber is the Coldwater race director. Aravaipa has held this race since 2011, under the name Coldwater Rumble through 2026.

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At a glance

Race Date: Saturday, January 16 to Sunday, January 17, 2027

Location: Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Goodyear, AZ. Start and finish at the Estrella Mountain Competitive Track ("Rumble HQ"), 14805 West Vineyard Avenue.

Race Distance: 101.3 miles, 32-hour cap (3:00 PM Sunday)

Race Start Time: 7:00 AM Saturday, Arizona time (MST)

Format: 5 loops: 2 Red loops (10.0 mi), then 3 Blue loops (27.0 mi), through Rumble HQ after every loop

Course

Two short Red loops, then three long Blue loops, all starting and finishing at Rumble HQ in the Sierra Estrella foothills.

Red loop, 2 laps (10.0 mi). Gila aid sits at mile 3.0 of each lap (course miles 3.0 and 13.0). You come back through Rumble HQ at miles 10.0 and 20.0.

Blue loop, 3 laps (27 mi). Rainbow Valley comes at 8.6 mi into the loop, Pedersen 2.4 mi later, Horse Thief 8.2 mi after that, then 7.9 mi home to Rumble HQ. You finish laps at miles 47.1, 74.1 and 101.2.

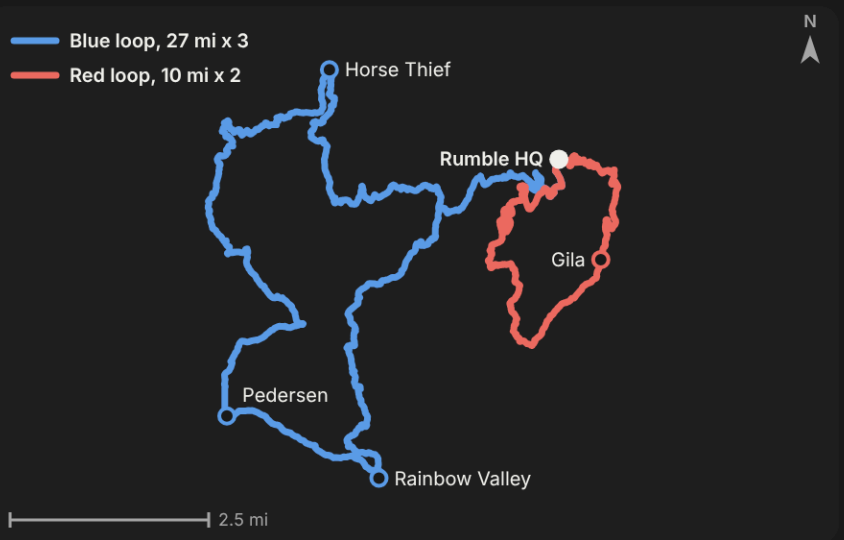
Terrain. Crushed granite single track, rocks, boulders, sandy washes, old jeep roads and dry wash beds. It is mostly rolling, with no long sustained climbs. Corgett Wash, a 1.5 to 2 mile stretch on the back half of the course, can be very sandy. Poles are allowed, though the race says they are not very useful here.

Marking. Orange ribbon with black polka dots, orange pin flags and distance signs at junctions. Blue and white checkerboard flagging marks wrong-way trails. Learn the course before race day; that is the runner's responsibility.

The race publishes 101.3 miles and 8,687 ft of gain, and notes distances can vary slightly each year due to permitting.

SAT, JAN 16, 2027 · 7:00 A.M. START COURSE OVERVIEW

COLDWATER HUNDRED



101.3 mi
Race distance

5 loops
2 Red (10 mi), 3 Blue (27 mi)

8,687 ft
Gain, published by race

COACH'S NOTE

The Blue loop has three long gaps of 7.9 to 8.6 miles with zero shade, so leave every aid station carrying enough water to reach the next one. Corgett Wash on the back half can be very sandy; wear gaiters and hike it if running it costs too much. Night runs from about 6 PM to after 7 AM and the washes get cold, so put warm layers in your Horse Thief bag before sunset.

MILE	AID STATION
3.0	Gila (Red loops, mi 3.0 and 13.0)
28.6	Rainbow Valley (Blue loops)
31.0	Pedersen (Blue loops)
39.2	Horse Thief (Blue loops)

Miles shown for the first pass. Crew at Rumble HQ and Horse Thief.

Mindset Endurance Coaching

Map from course GPX

Schedule and cutoffs

Clear the Red loops by 1:30 PM Saturday, start the last Blue loop by 6:30 AM Sunday and finish by 3:00 PM Sunday; mid-race cutoffs are for leaving an aid station, not arriving.

Day and time	Event	Hours from start
Fri Jan 15, 2:00 to 6:00 PM	Bib pickup, Estrella Mountain Competitive Track	Day before
Sat Jan 16, 6:00 AM	Bib pickup and race-day registration open	-1:00
Sat 6:55 AM	100 Mile race briefing	-0:05
Sat 7:00 AM	100 Mile start	0:00
Sat 1:30 PM	Cutoff: leave Rumble HQ II (mile 20.0)	6:30
Sun Jan 17, 6:30 AM	Cutoff: start final Blue loop, Rumble HQ IV (mile 74.1)	23:30
Sun 9:15 AM	Soft cutoff: leave Rainbow Valley III (mile 82.7)	26:15
Sun 10:00 AM	Soft cutoff: leave Pedersen III (mile 85.1)	27:00
Sun 12:30 PM	Cutoff: leave Horse Thief III (mile 93.3)	29:30
Sun 3:00 PM	Final cutoff, finish (mile 101.2)	32:00

Soft cutoffs are enforced only if a runner is far behind pace, at the race director's discretion. Buckles go to finishers under 32 hours, with a Sub-24 buckle under 24 hours.

Aid stations

Five aid stations and 15 aid stops between start and finish, with the longest gaps (8.6, 8.2 and 7.9 mi) on the Blue loop.

Location	When you pass it	What's there	Crew access
Rumble HQ (start/finish)	Miles 0.0, 10.0, 20.0, 47.1, 74.1, 101.2	Aid, drop bag, MedStar medical team, portable restrooms, lap results screen	Yes. Pacers join here from mile 47.1
Gila	Miles 3.0 and 13.0 (Red loops)	Aid	No
Rainbow Valley	Miles 28.6, 55.6, 82.7	Aid	No
Pedersen	Miles 31.0, 58.0, 85.1	Aid	No
Horse Thief	Miles 39.2, 66.2, 93.3	Aid, remote drop bag	Yes, no structures or camping. Pacers join here at 66.2 and 93.3

The race is cupless: no cups at aid stations for water, electrolyte or soda, so carry your own (UltrAspire cups are sold at registration and on race day). The race describes the stations as well stocked but has not published a menu. Remote timing points along the course feed live tracking at live.aravaiparunning.com.

Crew access

Crews can meet runners at Rumble HQ every lap and at Horse Thief on each Blue loop; every other aid station is runner-only.

- **Rumble HQ:** Crews are welcome at the start/finish for the whole event, and canopies can go along the interior of the loop where runners pass each lap. Check in with Aravaipa staff before setting up; crew zone setup begins 1:00 PM Friday. Spaces are not assigned.
- **Wind and stakes:** Anchor canopies with six-inch galvanized nails or weights. Aluminum stakes will not hold in the hard ground, and desert rocks are off limits as weights.
- **Horse Thief:** Crews allowed, with no structures and no camping. No shuttles run, so crews drive there themselves.
- **Pacing:** One pacer at a time, from mile 47.1 (the last two Blue loops), joining or leaving only at Rumble HQ or Horse Thief. Pacers cannot carry the runner's gear and can use the aid stations.
- **Drop bags:** One bag at Rumble HQ and one remote bag at Horse Thief. Drop them at bib pickup Friday or on race morning, in the spots marked for each location. Horse Thief bags have no set return time; put yours in the "Finished" pile on your last pass.
- **Finish chute:** Crews, pacers, family and dogs may run the final stretch into Rumble HQ with the runner once off the single track.
- **Medical:** MedStar Solutions is based at Rumble HQ. Do not call 911; call the race-day number and they dispatch from there.
- **Parking and camping:** Park entry is $10 per vehicle, cash recommended. Runners park at Rumble HQ and spectators use the satellite lots across the road. Tent and RV sites next to the start/finish cost $36 for Friday and Saturday nights.

Weather

Typical mid-January conditions are highs in the mid to high 60s°F and lows in the low 40s°F at the park, a 30 to 40 degree swing from afternoon to night.

Window	Time	Typical temperature	Light
Start to sunset	Sat 7:00 AM to 5:44 PM	Low 40s at the start, mid to high 60s by afternoon	Civil twilight 7:06 AM, sunrise 7:32 AM. No shade on course
Night	Sat 5:44 PM to Sun 7:31 AM	Falling to the low 40s, colder in the washes	Dark from about 6:10 PM to 7:06 AM, about 13 hours
Sunrise to final cutoff	Sun 7:31 AM to 3:00 PM	Low 40s at dawn, mid to high 60s by early afternoon	Daylight

The low-40s and mid-to-high-60s figures come from the race. NWS normal for Phoenix Sky Harbor (1991 to 2020) are 67.6°F and 46.0°F. January brings about 0.9 inches of rain at Phoenix, and the race notes storms and cold snaps do happen.

Wind: Phoenix averages about 5 mph in January, and no reliable prevailing direction is published for the park. On a loop course you will meet whatever wind blows from several directions each lap. Wind is the reason the race asks crews to nail or weight their canopies.

Gear choices: Dress for two races. Daytime means full sun with zero shade, so a hat or headwrap, sunglasses, a sun hoodie or sleeves and an ice bandana earn their place. Overnight in the washes, a 40°F night feels cold after a warm day, so have a warm layer, light jacket, gloves and a buff ready at Rumble HQ or Horse Thief before sunset. The air is dry, so keep drinking and taking electrolytes overnight even when you do not feel thirsty.

Gear checklist

Pack for up to 32 hours on desert trail, a hot exposed day, about 13 hours of darkness near 40°F and a cupless race with sandy washes.

Paperwork and race kit

- [ ] Race confirmation and photo ID
- [ ] Bib with timing chip, kept flat (do not crease or fold it)
- [ ] Cash for the $10 park entry fee
- [ ] Watch charged, plus charging cable and battery pack
- [ ] Nutrition for the whole race, plus 20% spare
- [ ] Electrolytes or salt tabs
- [ ] Anti-chafe, sunscreen, lip balm
- [ ] Antacid or anti-nausea medication, plus personal medications
- [ ] Dry post-race clothes and shoes

Run

- [ ] Trail shoes, plus a backup pair
- [ ] Socks, plus spares
- [ ] Gaiters for Corgett Wash sand
- [ ] Hydration vest or handhelds
- [ ] Reusable cup or soft flask for aid stations (no cups at aid stations)
- [ ] Hat or headwrap and sunglasses
- [ ] Sun hoodie or arm sleeves
- [ ] Ice bandana
- [ ] Blister kit: tape, lube, needle, alcohol wipes
- [ ] Poles, optional (allowed)

Night and cold

- [ ] Headlamp, plus a backup light and spare batteries
- [ ] Warm layer and light jacket
- [ ] Gloves and a buff or ear cover
- [ ] Long sleeves or tights for the coldest hours
- [ ] Warm drink plan at Rumble HQ

Drop bags

- [ ] Rumble HQ bag and Horse Thief bag, labeled for each location
- [ ] Spare socks, lube and nutrition in each
- [ ] Backup light and warm layer in each for the night laps

Crew and village

- [ ] Crew sheet: lap times, what to hand over at Rumble HQ and Horse Thief
- [ ] Canopy, plus six-inch galvanized nails or weights to anchor it
- [ ] Folding chair, cooler and ice
- [ ] Labeled bins for day and night gear
- [ ] Sleeping bag if you rented a tent or cot
- [ ] Wet wipes, toiletries, real food and a caffeine plan