

# We Storm Again...



*Keep Moving forward*

## 2023 SHORT COURSE - Racer Information Package

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# SHORT COURSE - Racer Information Package

Dear Storm'ers:

Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the Storm Adventure Race! We are extremely excited to introduce you to a new venue at Albion Hills Conservation Area. The region is awash in terrain suited for adventure racing, atop the Oak Ridges Moraine with abundant forests, meandering rivers, steep-sided valleys and a plethora of trail networks to explore. All this just a short drive from the GTA and with onsite camping we're certain it will create an epic weekend of adventure!

For those new to the experience, The Storm Adventure Race is a full-weekend event which features race options for all levels. Racers on the 'Short' (formerly 'Hike') and 'Advanced' (formerly 'Trek-Elite') courses will compete on Saturday, and the 'Long' (formerly 'Trek') course will be staged separately on Sunday. Each racecourse is designed completely new from year to year, which means there are always new trails, terrain, and waterways to be explored! We use SPORTident timing technology for fast and accurate race results - further information on this system is provided in Section 1.

This year's 'Short' course will cover roughly 39km in total distance, with the legs broken down as follows: 3km trek, 6.5km bike, 6.5km canoe, 5km trek, 18.5km bike and the expected completion time will range between three to five hours. Beyond that, the information in this package will provide you with all the pertinent pre-race details you need to know - where to be, when to be there, what to bring, etc. etc. Please review the pages that follow carefully. While we have gone to great lengths to create a fun, safe and exciting day of racing, we leave it up to you to ensure that you are suitably prepared.

Of particular importance is the list of mandatory gear requirements in Section 5. The list has been compiled with your safety in mind, and while we don't expect you to spend a fortune on new equipment, please bear in mind the unpredictability of Ontario's spring weather, the length of time you will be on the course, and the variety of activities you will be doing.

"Mandatory" gear items are those which each team **must** carry with them throughout the race. You may be required to use some or all of these items on the course, so please come prepared! On-course gear checks will be imposed, in where teams will be required to show that they are carrying their mandatory gear items. Penalty minutes or disqualification will be assigned to teams that fail to comply.

Should you have any questions regarding this package or the race itself, please feel free to email [info@stormrace.ca](mailto:info@stormrace.ca) I look forward to seeing all of you in May, and wish all teams the best of luck on Race Day!

Bob Miller  
Race Director

## SECTION 1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

- The Storm Adventure Race is open to teams of 2 or 4.
- Teams must complete each of the race sections as a team (i.e. not relay-style), and must remain together as a team at all times during the race.
- Teams complete the paddling section(s) in canoes only. Tandem kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are not permitted. **Teams may only paddle with two people per canoe (with an exception for Family Teams of 4 who can have 4 in a canoe).**
- Detailed maps and specific Information on race routes will be provided on Race Day.
- The racecourse will be made up of both marked and unmarked sections, connected by a series of checkpoints through which racers must pass enroute to the Finish Line. Each team is issued a set of colour maps and a list of written instructions indicating the locations of the checkpoints.
- Racers are entirely self-sufficient while on the course (no outside support crews are allowed).
- All teams are responsible for carrying a list of mandatory gear items throughout the race (see the Gear List in Section 5 for details).
- Each team will be issued a SPORTident timing card which they will use to “punch in” at each of the course checkpoints that they reach. The SPORTident control box at each checkpoint will digitally record your arrival time onto your card, and the data will later be downloaded and entered into the overall results at the Finish Line.
- Replacement costs for lost SPORTident timing cards will be charged at a fee of \$75.00

**SPORTident punch**



**SPORTident card**



## SECTION 2. RACE DAY ITINERARY

### Race Day - Saturday May 27, 2023

6:00am	Canoe Drop opens at Remote Location
6:30am	Bike Drop Opens at central transition area next to Chalet
8:00am	Short Course Check-In opens at the Chalet
9:30am	Canoe Drop closes
10:00am	Bike Drop closes
10:00am	Check-In closes
10:15am	Pre-race briefing (mandatory – outside of Chalet)
10:30am	Short Course Race start
3:00pm	Short Course Awards
6:30pm	Gear in the Central Transition Area must be picked up before this time
7:30pm	Paddling gear must be picked up from the Remote Location before this time.

#### General Notes:

- a post-race BBQ will be provided for all racers
- please note that prizing will only be issued to those who attend the awards – it will not be shipped post-race

#### Awards

Racers compete only against others in their chosen race division. Prizing will be awarded to top finishers in each category; medals to the top three. Masters categories are only open to participants 45 years and over. Note that gender sub-category rankings among Masters teams will be offered only if there are *at least 2 teams in each gender class*. If not, all Masters teams will compete under one Masters division.

Open Teams of 2	Open Teams of 4	Masters Teams of 2	Masters Teams of 4	Family
Team of 2 - Male	Team of 4 - Male	Team of 2 - Male	Team of 4 - Male	Teams of 2
Team of 2 - Female	Team of 4 - Female	Team of 2 - Female	Team of 4 - Female	Teams of 4
Team of 2 - Coed	Team of 4 - Coed	Team of 2 - Coed	Team of 4 - Coed	

## SECTION 2.1 PRE-RACE INSTRUCTIONS *(see following page for maps and directions)*

- Check-In will be at the 'Chalet' in Albion Hills Conservation Area and the central transition area will be outside the Chalet:
- Remote Canoe Transition Area(s). We'll have a remote canoe transition area for this year's event. It is a short 10-minute drive from the host site. Teams are advised to proceed to the Remote Canoe Transition Area to drop your canoe(s) and PFD's, paddles etc. prior to checking-in.
- For teams that have rented canoes, your boats will be waiting for you at the Remote Canoe Transition Area. You can pick one out while dropping your gear pre-race, or when arriving at the transition in the race.
- Parking will be available at a few designated lots around the Albion Hills Conservation Park. Please only park in the lots designated for the event, as shown on the following page.
- Teams may only check in if all team members have completed the online waivers and medical forms at these links:

[2023 Storm Online Waiver \(https://waiver.fr/p-qxmBN\)](https://waiver.fr/p-qxmBN)

[2023 Storm Medical Form \(https://waiver.fr/p-VRH5F\)](https://waiver.fr/p-VRH5F)



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- At Check-In, you will receive:
  - Race bib numbers and a bib-number holder (per team member)
  - Bike Plates and zip ties
  - Maps & Instructions
  - Team SPORTident card
  - Meal tickets
  - Race Swag Items (T-shirts and Buffs for 2023)

(participants must show their bib number to enter the central transition area to both drop-off and pick-up gear. This includes picking up gear post-race at the remote canoe transition.)
- Attendance at the 10:15am pre-race briefing is mandatory for all team captains.

## SECTION 2.2 HOW TO GET THERE

[CLICK HERE](#) for a Google Maps overview of the race sites

STEP 1 - Drop your canoe, or canoe gear at the Humber Valley Heritage Trail trailhead at the northwest corner of Duffy's Lane and Emil Kolb Parkway (Google Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/SDGJ662AtPba6Baq8>)

- Race Staff will meet you here and detail where to leave gear (**you may not leave anything here that you are not taking with you on the racecourse.**)

STEP 2 - Proceed to Albion Hills Conservation Park and check-in at the "Chalet" building and collect your race kits.

- Google Map Link to Albion Hills Entrance: <https://goo.gl/maps/HsV4WCq8vhoXAN839>
- Google Map Link to Albion Hills Chalet: <https://goo.gl/maps/if8KxweN7aVs97Hq9>

Storm participants **must** park at one of the following parking lots within Albion Hills:

- Small Chalet Lot
- Trailview Picnic/Parking Area
- Cedar Grove Picnic/Parking Area

STEP 3 – Place bike plates on bikes and drop them with any other gear in the central transition area next to the Chalet building.



## SECTION 3. RACE RULES – GENERAL

- The fundamental rule of The Storm Adventure Race is that team members must be within 100m (and in visible sight) of each other at all times. Teams caught breaking this rule will be penalized, or even disqualified.
- If a team member cannot continue the race for any reason, their teammates must stay with that person until Race Management is informed. Teams may continue (unranked) if a team member withdraws, but only once that team member has been safely removed from the course.
- Course checkpoints must be completed in the order they are assigned.
- Each team must check in with race officials at each of the staffed checkpoints. Failure to do so will result in a "NOR" ranking (not officially ranked).
- Each team is solely responsible for ensuring that they have been checked through by checkpoint staff. Not being accounted for at any of the staffed checkpoints will result in an automatic "NOR" ranking.
- Cut-off times may be imposed at certain checkpoints. Teams that arrive at such checkpoints after the designated cut-off time will be directed to the Finish Line.
- For safety and/or logistics reasons, certain areas of the racecourse will be declared "out-of-bounds." Any team found in these areas will be immediately disqualified.

## SECTION 3.1 RACE RULES – TEAMS

- Each team must have a team name included with their registration. Storm Racing reserves the right to refuse entry to any team that does not provide a team name.
- Members of a team may be changed, but only if notification is given prior to Race Day.
- All racers must check-in prior to the start of the race and must sign the online race waiver. Any participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian co-sign these waivers.
- Racers under 16 years of age must be on a team that includes at least one adult.



## SECTION 3.2 RACE RULES – EQUIPMENT

- All racers must race with the mandatory team and individual gear requirements. Time penalties will be applied to teams found without a mandatory gear item.
- All racers must have their race bib visible at all times during the race and must affix their race number to the front of their bike with the plates provided.
- Racers must wear their bike helmets at all times while travelling by bike, and their PFD's at all times during water travel. Racers found not wearing their required gear will be disqualified.
- Teams paddle in canoes only (tandem kayaks are not permitted) and may not paddle with more than 2 people in a canoe unless in the Family Category where 4 in a canoe is permitted. Use of kayak paddles in canoes is allowed.
- Use of GPS mapping devices on the racecourse is not permitted. However, GPS watches used for the purpose of recording data for post-race download may be worn.

## SECTION 4. RACECOURSE NOTES

We've had a ton of fun exploring and playing around last fall and this spring, and we know you are going to enjoy what we have in store for you!

### Mountain Bike Stages

*approx 25km (total)*

Racers can expect to see a mix of 25% paved road and 75% double-track, or single-track trails. The biking at Albion and the surrounding forests is quite simply world-class with smooth, purpose-built trails that will take participants on a roller-coaster ride through the forest!

### Paddle Stage

*approx 6.5km (total)*

The paddle stage will follow a meandering river through a beautiful glacier-cut valley with a few faster-flowing swifts. The water level varies on the river with rainfall, but we expect it to be at a late spring level which means it will vary in depth from ½ a foot to roughly thigh, or waist deep. Due to the shallow and super-twisty nature of the river **we advise teams use canoe paddles** for better steering control. Teams should also expect canoes will rub the bottom of the river in a few shallower spots so it may not be the race for ultra-fancy, lightweight canoes where having a few scratches would be a concern. We still have canoe rentals available if those bringing their own canoes would prefer a rental. There will be 4 portages along the route. The first will be 650m on a paved trail to the put-in where portage wheels could be used. 3 further portages of 50m, 150m and 75m respectively will be encountered to pass around logjams. We think teams will really enjoy the varied nature of this paddle with lots of bends and scenery to keep things fun and entertaining.

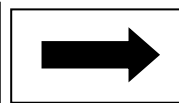
### Running/Trekking Stages

*approx 8km (total)*

The 2 trekking sections will involve searching for a series of checkpoints that will be either off-trail or positioned throughout well-established trail systems. One area will contain hilly, forested moraine topography, while the other will traverse a series of valleys, ridges and fields. The maps are very accurate and have been updated with recent trail data.

## SECTION 4.1 NOTES ON NAVIGATION

- Unlike pure wilderness-based adventure races, The Storm Adventure Race does not require racers to have advanced-level navigation skills, The racecourse is made up of both marked and unmarked sections - racers use a combination of race markers, course maps, and a set of written instructions to work their way through it.
- At Check-In, each team will be issued a series of race maps with checkpoint locations, and a list of instructions indicating the order in which checkpoints/race disciplines are to be completed. These instructions may provide course details not evident through use of the maps or race markers alone.
- So, while the objective of the race is to move through the various disciplines as quickly as you can, racers will want to be certain they are constantly aware of their whereabouts on the map and paying close attention to the instructions provided. A “put your head down and go hard” approach may not necessarily produce the fastest result!
- Those sections of the racecourse that are marked will be identified by black arrows on white signs, and the red & black Storm triangle logo on white squares. However, these markings are only placed as a means of giving direction at key road or trail junctions – the *race maps and instructions* are the essential tools to making your way through the race.



- Those sections of the racecourse that are not marked will be defined by the checkpoint locations as presented on the race maps. Although it will not require true “orienteeing-style” navigation to make your way through, having even a basic understanding of map & compass use may prove helpful.

## SECTION 4.2 FAMILY CATEGORY

The Family Category is open to teams of two or four with at least one racer under 13 years of age. Eligible teams may self-select the Family Category as the race division they compete in, although it is a completely *optional choice*. Please note that if you are eligible but did not register under the Family Category at the point of registration, your team will be automatically ranked amongst the regular all-male, all-female or coed race divisions.

Family teams of four are allowed to paddle 4 in a canoe if they choose, but please note this is the **ONLY** category where this is permitted.

The Family Category will be listed separately in the official results, and in the post-race awards ceremonies. As with all other team categories, prizing will be awarded to the top finishers, and medals to the top three teams.



## SECTION 4.3 PRINCIPLES OF TEAM-BASED ADVENTURE RACING

The origins of adventure racing are that of a **team sport**. And just like any team sport, the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts. Often, it is the team which best uses its collective strengths and abilities to move as a unit throughout the course that is most successful, more so than the ones with the strongest individuals.

TRANSLATION - when racing on a team, it is of utmost importance to recognize that your pace will ultimately be determined by that of your slowest teammate. Separating or leaving teammates behind does not make you faster, it only makes the experience worse for those who can't keep up. More importantly, it is also in direct violation of the race rules. **You are cheating when you separate from your teammates.**

Before you set off from the start line, all racers are to remember the following five core principles of team-based racing:

- I do not leave my teammates behind
- I keep my teammates within visible sight at all times
- I look after my teammates, and expect them to do the same for me
- My teammates and I form a unit – we do not move faster if we separate
- If for any reason one of my teammates cannot continue, I will stay with them until they are safely off the course



## SECTION 4.4 NOTES ON GEAR

- Given that racers are self-sufficient while on the racecourse (unlike in triathlon events) the rule of thumb at The Storm Adventure Race is always to “expect to have to carry stuff.” A backpack with the capacity to carry items such as running or biking shoes is highly recommended.
- Each racer must bring **two whistles** with them on Race Day - one that they carry at all times during the race, and a *separate whistle attached to your PFD*.
- Each racer is required to have the capacity for a total of **2L of water**. This minimum volume may be distributed between backpacks, bikes and boats, but we highly recommend you have all possible sources completely filled prior to Race Start, as **water will not be made available on the course**. Note that you will occasionally pass rivers, small lakes and streams where water could be purified if needed. You may also pass public water taps.
- There will be **gear checks** along the course at which point racers will be required to show one or more items from the mandatory gear list. Any team who cannot provide mandatory safety items will either be penalized, or possibly disqualified if such missing items make it unsafe to continue.
- To those teams who booked canoe rentals through Storm Racing - please note that PFD's are **not included** with the rental. You are responsible for bringing your own Personal Floatation Device for each team member.
- **GPS mapping devices** – whether it be a stand-alone GPS or an in-phone app, may not be used at any time on the racecourse. Cell phones with GPS apps built-in are acceptable to fulfill the mandatory cell phone requirement as listed in Section 5, but phones are not to be turned on at any time during the race other than for emergency purposes. GPS watches used for the purpose of recording data for post-race download are permitted.
- **Waterproof map pouches** are considered mandatory gear, as you will need them to protect your maps and instructions. Ziplock bags will suffice if need be, but are not recommended.
- **An Allan key and chain-breaking tool** (and knowledge of their use) could potentially make the difference between finishing a race and having to be pulled off the course due to mechanical problems with your bike. These items are not mandatory, but highly recommended.
- All racers are required to have a spare fleece or polypro (i.e. non-cotton) **long-sleeved shirt sealed in a watertight bag or pouch** that is to be carried at all times during the race. This requirement is often questioned when the weather looks favorable, but the value of a dry shirt that can keep you warm or help stabilize your core temperature in an emergency situation is immeasurable. Do not disregard!
- A **dry bag with a minimum 20L capacity** is mandatory for each team. A larger volume is recommended though, so that you can use it to keep your packs dry on the paddle section. A garbage bag would technically suffice, but something more durable will be more effective.
- "Mandatory" gear items listed in Section 5 are those which you **MUST** have with you during the “entire race” or for given “bike” or “paddle” sections.



## SECTION 5. MANDATORY GEAR LIST

ENTIRE RACE	<p><u>Mandatory Items - Per Racer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 whistle (<u>separate</u> from the one attached to your PFD)</li> <li>• Minimum volume of 2L (total) water capacity (<i>please remember that water will <u>not</u> be provided on the racecourse</i>)</li> <li>• 1 toque</li> <li>• Spare fleece, polypro or polyester (ie. non-cotton) long-sleeved shirt stored in a <u>watertight bag or pouch</u></li> </ul> <p><u>Mandatory Items - Per Team</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 waterproof map pouch</li> <li>• 1 fully-charged cellular phone (<i>note that this phone is to be turned on only in emergency situations</i>)</li> <li>• 1 pocket knife</li> <li>• 1 compass</li> <li>• 1 permanent marker or pen (<i>do not disregard – you've been warned!</i>)</li> <li>• 1 emergency blanket</li> <li>• Waterproof matches/lighter</li> <li>• Headlamp or flashlight</li> <li>• Medical kit containing a tensor bandage, 6 "band-aid" bandages, adhesive tape, 2 antiseptic wipes, antibiotic ointment, 2 ibuprofen tablets, 2 antihistamine tablets, 1 gauze pad, and electrolyte supplements (ie. such as eLoad drink mix powder, eDiscs, Zone Caps, or similar)</li> </ul>
BIKE SECTIONS	<p><u>Mandatory Items - Per Racer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountain bike</li> <li>• Certified bike helmet</li> <li>• 1 spare bike tube (or a patch kit if you are running tubeless tires)</li> </ul> <p><u>Mandatory Items - Per Team</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 tire pump (or CO2 inflator and cartridge)</li> <li>• 2 tire levers</li> </ul>
PADDLE SECTIONS	<p><u>Mandatory Items - Per Racer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coast Guard or Dept. of Transportation approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) with whistle attached (<u>separate</u> from the one listed above that is carried with you at all times)</li> <li>• Please note that inflatable lifejackets are <b>not acceptable</b> as Personal Flotation Devices</li> </ul> <p><u>Mandatory Items - Per Team</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 dry bag with minimum 20L capacity</li> <li>• 1 canoe per 2 people in a team</li> <li>• 2 paddles, 1 bailer (or pump) and a throw line that is at least 15m in length per canoe</li> </ul>

Note that canoes rented through Storm Racing **do** include paddles, throw lines and bailers.

Note that canoes rented through Storm Racing **do not** include PFD's.

## SECTION 6. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Can we use kayak paddles in the canoe?**

- Yes, however in 2023 canoe paddles are recommended.

### **What types of rental canoes are offered if we book through Storm Racing?**

- Our supplier offers kevlar and royalite canoes, complete with paddles and all required emergency gear (PFD's are not included).

### **Do we have to carry 2L of water with us at all times, or can we leave water with our bikes/boats?**

- All racers are required to have the capacity for a minimum of 2L of water. Whether you choose to carry that much in one source we leave up to you. The key point to remember however is that water will not be provided on the course, and that you may be out there for 3 to 9 hours.

### **Will there be a main transition area at which we can leave gear or a bag?**

- Typically yes, but having the capacity to carry some gear items through certain sections of the course is highly recommended.

### **Will a hybrid bike suffice as a "mountain bike"?**

- A hybrid could conceivably be used, if need be, but it is not recommended.



## SECTION 7. VOLUNTEERS

If those racers bringing along any friends or family could convince them to assist for a few hours as a volunteer, it would be greatly appreciated! Volunteers are the backbone of events like these, and we graciously welcome anyone who wants to join the Race Staff team. Volunteers will be provided an official Storm Adventure Race shirt & Buff, as well as a bagged lunch and post-race BBQ meal. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please write to [info@stormrace.ca](mailto:info@stormrace.ca)

### SECTION 7.1 VOLUNTEER DISCOUNT

Want to save money on your race entry fees? Provide us with a volunteer referral (or volunteer yourself!) and we'll credit you with **\$25\*** off your entry into your next Storm Adventure Race! Volunteers are a critical component of our Event Day planning, and we want to make certain that the experience is worthwhile for those who so generously offer us their time.

For registered teams, this credit is offered in the form of a rebate for any referral of a volunteer over the age of 13 and willing to commit to a minimum 5-hour shift. For further details, contact us at [info@stormrace.ca](mailto:info@stormrace.ca)

*\* To a maximum of \$50. Please note that this offer cannot be redeemed through the online registration system.*



## SECTION 8. STORM SWAG

- All racers will receive both a custom t-shirt and Buff in 2023:



## SECTION 9. REFUND POLICY

Participants who register for the Storm Adventure Race do so with the acknowledgement that:

- Entry into the Storm Adventure Race is to be viewed as an all-in commitment made at the point of registration - please note that no refunds (partial or full) will be offered for any reason.
- Transfer of an entry or changing team categories and/or members of a team will be permitted only if notification is given prior to registration closing on May 18, 2023. Switching to a different race length (Short, Long, or Advanced) will be permitted if space is available.
- In the event that a race is cancelled or postponed due to reasons beyond our control (including, but not limited to, severe weather, war, flood, pandemic, or any factor that may make the operation of the event dangerous to participants, staff and volunteers), every effort will be made to reschedule the race to a later date, or the event will be converted to a virtual version. However, no refunds will be issued if a re-scheduled date is not possible. If a new date is offered, no refund will be granted to registrants who are unable to participate in the rescheduled event.