

CHUSKA CHALLENGE MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL

Buffalo Pass – Chuska Mountains
September 27-29, 2019



Yaateeh riders! Welcome to the 25th annual Chuska Challenge!

REGISTRATION – Online registration for both the tour and race is now open through 10:00 p.m. on the evening of Thursday, September 26 at the NavajoYES website: www.navajoyes.org On-site registration will be held at the race site at the Chuska camp on Friday evening and Saturday morning between 7:00-9:00 a.m. Registration includes food all weekend, performance t-shirt, event poster, course support, camping and race awards. Registration for the AES/Cove Classic event is <https://rockyroad5050.wordpress.com/cove-classic/>

FOOD & SUPPORT – Your registration includes a light pre-race breakfast between 7:00-9:00 on Saturday, on-course support (including fresh fruit, sweet and salty snacks, gels, etc), a post-race meal and Sunday breakfast. There will be a local vendor selling on Friday night.

ROUTES –

- The **Chuska Tour**, which begins at 9:30 a.m., is mostly dirt road and trail, offering a variety of fully-supported routes of varying lengths, from 20-40 miles. The ride from camp heads to Buffalo Pass and on to quiet doubletrack through the northern Chuskas, where fall colors will be appearing. The route also takes riders through beautiful forest to a stunning viewpoint referred to locally as “top of the world”, with dramatic overlooks of Cove, the Carrizos, Monument Valley and Bear’s Ears.
- The **Mountain Bike Race** will be a circuit race that will take place on Saturday morning on a challenging high-elevation route. The adult race begins at 9:30 a.m., while the youth (U18) race kicks off at 11:30. Both races are two 7.5 mile loops on a difficult course with major sections of climbing, technical descents
- The **Kids Race** is a fun circuit around camp, taking place on Saturday afternoon.
- We will have a **Skills Course** set up in camp for riders to experience all weekend.
- Sunday’s **Arizona Endurance Series** event will begin and end at camp, featuring a 35-mile loop with 5000 feet of climbing, and a 55-mile loop with 8000 feet of climbing. The ride explores some of the finest country in the northern Chuskas and gives you a broad sampling of the community of Cove and the surrounding landscapes. ***As with all AES events, there is no registration, swag, support or awards for this ride; it’s simply a long epic ride with friends in some stunning country!*** We will give you a GPS track of the route and you are on your way!

CAMPING – Rustic camping is available at the Chuska camp at 8500 feet elevation in the ponderosa and aspen forest. There will be portajohns, hand-wash stations, lots of camping space, tons of food, a live music stage, cool activities and a large camp tent at the site.

LIVE MUSIC STAGE – Chuska weekend will be filled with awesome sounds of some of the best live native music around, including the likes of Nolan James, Gary Elthie, Red Hawk and Jimmy Keith.

PACKET PICK-UP – Packet pick-up and on-site registration will be available on Friday at camp and up to 9:15 a.m. on race morning Saturday. **The adult mountain bike begins at the Chuska camp at 9:30 a.m., followed by the tour a few minutes later. The U18 mountain bike race kicks off at 11:30 a.m. Sunday's AZ Endurance Series Race begins at 8:00 a.m.**

AWARDS – There will be overall awards and age-group awards for the Mountain Bike Race. There are no awards for AES event or the Tour.

The Chuska Challenge is sponsored by the Navajo Nation-based nonprofit organization Y.E.S. for Dine' Bikeyah (NavajoYES), with support from the Navajo Rangers, Beclabito CERT, Dolores Market, Red Valley CERT, Honey Stinger, Kokopelli Bikes and Navajo United Way.

CONTACTS:

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DIRECTONS – Our campsite is nestled in the towering pine trees in a scenic spot at about 8500 feet elevation. Situated between the communities of Red Valley and Lukachukai, the site is just east of Buffalo Pass overlook in the northern Chuskas. Below are the directions from a variety of locations.

From east (if travelling from Shiprock, Durango, Farmington, Cortez, T'iis Nasbas, etc.)

Head south on U.S. Highway 491 out of Shiprock. Five-plus miles south of Shiprock will be the junction with Navajo Route 13, with signs indicating Red Valley, Cove and Lukachukai. Turn right and head west on N13. You will see the Red Rock Trading Post and school in 22 miles, then will pass by Red Valley Cove H.S. and NHA housing on your way to the mountain. About twelve miles from Red Valley you will arrive at camp, which will be visible on the right (north) side of N13.

From south (Window Rock, Ganado, Gallup, etc.)

Travel 60 miles north on Navajo Route 12 from WR to the junction with Navajo route 13 at Lukachukai (aka "L.A."), From LA, head east into the mountains. From the junction, you will travel about 12 miles to Buffalo Pass, on your left as you approach the summit. Continue one mile east of the Pass to our camp, which will be visible from the highway on the left (north) side of the N13.

From north (Kayenta, Shonto, Black Mesa, Tuba City, Monument Valley, Page)

Travel east eight miles from Kayenta on U.S. Highway 160 to the junction with Navajo Route 59 at the top of Church Rock hill. At the junction, turn right and head south 44 miles – past Chilchinbeto and Rough Rock en route to Many Farms. At Many Farms, travel 16 miles east to Round Rock on U.S. Highway 191. At the Round Rock, turn right and head south on Route 12. Continue 15 miles to Lukachukai. From Lukachukai, head east on N13 toward Buffalo Pass. Camp is just one mile east of the pass on your left (north).