

2021 Teton Ogre Racer Update #1

3.09.21

Hello 2021 Teton Ogre Racers!

Although we are still buried in feet of snow here in the Teton region, we are so looking forward to seeing you all at the Teton Ogre this June! Thank you so much for signing up for what we hope will be a much-needed and memorable adventure!

All three of our events—an 8-hour race on both Friday and Saturday, and a 24-hour on Saturday/Sunday—are sold out! So, we figured we'd start in on some racer communications nice and early, to get some questions answered that we have rolling in already. We know that it's long, but **please read this entire email carefully**, as there is important info here that will help your race go more smoothly.

(Team Captains, it's a good idea to check in with your teammates and make sure they have also received all this info as well as any future info).

Much of this information can be found on our website, specifically on our [Race Details page](#) and our [Gear List page](#), both of which we update periodically so please check them often.

COVID

First of all, we'd like to mention COVID and what our current plan is to make sure the Teton Ogre is as safe as possible. Please note that per our gear list and race rules, facemasks are considered mandatory gear anytime you, your teammates, or any spectators are at race headquarters or transition areas. Just like you are required to wear a helmet when biking or a PFD when paddling, you must wear a facemask when in these common areas.

We have designed our race this year to minimize time spent gathered in large groups, as well as handling/transferring of equipment. Map pick-up and pre-race meetings will all be held the morning of the race, and we will be doing our best to relay as much information as possible in advance instead of via meetings.

Please keep in mind that our communities here are rural and tight-knit, and we want to be very careful that by hosting an event we aren't bringing added exposure to our region. If you or anyone you are traveling with are feeling sick come race time, please stay home and we will credit your entry fee towards next year's race!

A FEW WORDS FOR THOSE NEW TO ADVENTURE RACING

Welcome to the greatest sport there is! (In our humble opinion :)

Adventure racing requires a lot of planning and logistics, but it is SO totally worth it! You've already tackled one of the biggest hurdles—finding a team and getting signed up!

-Start getting organized as early as possible! We know all the gear required can be overwhelming, but the more you can be organized in advance (instead of the night before the race), the better your race will go. Ask your teammates what gear they already have, what they need, and what team gear can be shared. You can even decide in advance who is going to carry what.

-Team communication starts now. Who will be lead navigator and what is their experience level? Who is the workhorse and can carry the heaviest pack? Who is in charge of logistics? What is your strongest and weakest discipline as a team? What is your plan as a team if you get lost? Is everyone on the same page as far as goals and expectations of each other? What kind of training is everyone doing?

-Part of the fun of AR is the unknown...no marked course, no idea of where we might be sending you, no idea of what kind of terrain you might be in, etc. But this can also feel overwhelming when you're new and not used to this kind of racing! Keep in mind that everyone has the same amount of information and is in the same boat. As race directors, we will give you more and more information as the race approaches, and many of your questions will be answered over time. That said, don't be afraid to reach out to us with questions!

CAMPING, LODGING, and the TETONS!

We are excited to be hosting the Ogre in beautiful and remote Swan Valley this year, which is to the west of Teton Valley. If you are coming from out of town and are hoping for sweeping Teton views, make sure you spend at least one or two nights in Teton Valley (towns of Driggs, Victor, and Teton), or Jackson Hole! Yellowstone and Grand Teton Park are both within a couple hours' drive. Please spend some time on google maps familiarizing yourself with the area so you understand travel distances and can plan your weekend accordingly! Although we won't disclose the exact start/finish location until just a few days before the race, expect about a 1hr 20min drive from Driggs, 1hr 10min from Victor, and 40 minutes from the "town" of Swan Valley. We recommend making your way back through Driggs after the race, as many of our great event sponsors are located there and you may very well end up with a prize to be redeemed in Driggs! :) Not to mention you will find many more dining, lodging, and grocery options than in Swan Valley.

If you'd like to be closer to the race start/finish the night before the race, we recommend looking into lodging near Irwin, Idaho, or the following camping options:

Paid Campgrounds:

Calamity Campground

Riverside Park Campground

Free dispersed camping:

Look for sites along the west side of the Snake River, and along Snake River Road, north of the Palisades Dam.

BOATS

We've had a lot of questions already regarding boats and what to use for the paddling leg. Yes, you will need to provide your own watercraft for the paddling leg, but this can be anything you choose—non-motorized, of course! :) If on a team, you can choose to paddle in a tandem boat, or in singles—it's up to you!

We wish we could provide boats for everyone, but given our remote location and that adventure racing generally isn't popular enough in the US (yet!) for race directors to invest in fleets of boats, this is how it is.

We are excited to announce that we have secured a limited number (18 per race) of Old Town Discovery Canoes available at the race venue that teams can rent. There is nothing lightweight, fast, or sleek about these canoes, but they will do the trick and can safely carry 1,000lbs! :) Rental includes basic canoe paddles and PFDs, but of course you can use your own if you wish. We ask that you allocate a little time after the race to wipe out your canoe and make sure it is in decent shape for the next team (i.e. not full of muddy sludge).

We would like to give priority to our racers traveling from afar (such as by plane+rental car, or driving across multiple states), and for whom transporting a boat would be logistically difficult. If you live in the surrounding area and can easily borrow/rent and transport a boat from elsewhere, we ask that you please wait a little while to reserve one of these canoes. Thank you!

[CLICK HERE to reserve a canoe for FRIDAY'S 8-HOUR RACE](#)

[CLICK HERE to reserve a canoe for SATURDAY'S 8-HOUR RACE](#)

[CLICK HERE to reserve a canoe for the 24-HOUR RACE](#) (Please note that 24-hour racers will not have access to their rental canoes before the race starts. You may still stage all paddling gear as you wish, but the actual boat won't be available until the start of your paddling leg)

If you are looking into other rental options, hang tight. It's still ski season here and some places that rent boats haven't even bought their summer fleet yet! Here are some options.

[Peaked Sports in Driggs](#)

[Teton River Supply in Driggs](#)

[Yostmark Mountain Equipment in Driggs](#)

[BYU-Idaho Outdoor Resource Center in Rexburg](#)

[Idaho Adventure Rentals in Idaho Falls](#)

Please keep an eye on your inbox and on the website for future updates! In the meantime, feel free to reach out with questions anytime.

Also, if your plans change and you need to cancel or make any team changes, let us know sooner than later...we have many people on the waitlist who would love the chance to race if it arises.

Happy training, stay safe, and see you in June! Can't wait.

-Abby and Jason