

POCAR 2026 Instructions

January 16th-19th, 2026

Welcome to POCAR 2026 in Yellowwood State Forest. The following are instructions for this year's race. Some of this will be a repeat of what was on our registration website and some of it will be updated information. Even if you've already read through all of that, give this a brief look over to make sure you did not miss anything.

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Race Information

The Purdue Outing Club Adventure Race (POCAR) is a 48-hour orienteering race held over Martin Luther King weekend in Southern Indiana. This year's race will be held in Yellowwood State Forest. The race will begin at 10:00 a.m., January 17, 2026 and end by 10:30 a.m., January 19, 2026. Teams will be given UTM coordinates for checkpoints, and must be able to plot their own points. Make sure that there are at least 1 or 2 people on your team that can do this – no assistance will be provided on the day of the race! Volunteers will be constantly patrolling predetermined roads during the race in case a team is lost, hurt, or decides to drop out of the race.

On race day, teams are given a list of checkpoints with unique UTM coordinates. Teams must plot each UTM coordinate on the provided topographical maps, and navigate to each checkpoint to complete the race. The team that visits all required checkpoints in the least amount of time wins the race.

At each checkpoint will be an Orienteering Control Flag 12 inches or larger. All flags are attached to a 360 ring of reflective tape, a unique card-punch, and an ID code. The reflective tape will assist locating flags after dark. The ID code allows racers and course setters to confirm the checkpoint, and the unique punch allows race officials to confirm that each team has visited each control flag. Make sure the ID code for each control flag matches the ID code on your team's pass card!

Please be aware that not all checkpoints may be required to complete the race. In the past, decoy control flags have been placed on the course; new checkpoints have been revealed late in the race and some checkpoints must be completed in a particular order. Be ready for anything!

Driving Directions for Yellowwood State Forest

WPA Picnic Shelter House is located in Yellowwood State Forest about half an hour east of Bloomington, forty five minutes south of Martinsville, and twenty minutes west of Nashville.

From Bloomington, Indiana

Travel east via IN-46 E for 11.5 miles to Yellowwood Rd. Turn left onto Yellowwood Rd and continue for 1.2 miles. Turn left to stay on Yellowwood Rd for 0.9 miles. Then, turn right on Yellowwood Lake Rd and travel for 0.4 miles before turning left into the WPA Picnic Shelter House parking lot and campsites.

From Martinsville, Indiana

Travel southeast on IN-252 E/S R 252 out of town and continue for 6.4 miles to S Whetstine Rd in Jackson Township. Turn right and travel for 1.4 miles before turning right onto Mahalasville Rd. Continue straight onto Hassetown Road. After 1.3 miles turn right on Short Chute Rd. Half a

mile later, turn left on Carmel Ridge Rd. Continue for 5.1 miles then take a right onto IN-45 S. After 3.5 miles on IN-45 S, take a sharp left turn onto Lanam Ridge Rd before turning right onto Yellowwood Lake Rd. The WPA Picnic Shelter House and campsite will be on the right after 4 miles on Yellowwood Lake Rd.

From Nashville, Indiana

Travel southwest via IN-46 W for approximately 6 miles then turn right on Yellowwood Rd. In 1.2 miles, turn left to stay on Yellowwood Rd for 0.9 miles. Then, turn right on Yellowwood Lake Rd and travel for 0.4 miles before turning left into the WPA Picnic Shelter House parking lot and campsites.

Camping and Parking

Teams can camp and park at the WPA Picnic Shelter House campground and parking lot, respectively, in Yellowwood State Forest. WPA Picnic Shelter House will be used as the HQ for the race officials and both the volunteer and racer campground. If you arrive on Friday, January 16th, pop in and say hi to the race officials at headquarters in the WPA Picnic Shelter House just so we know you're there. If you arrive on Saturday, January 17th, see the itinerary section for details (this also applies to teams arriving on Friday). Be prepared for possible snowy and icy conditions on the roads within the forest depending on the weather leading up to the weekend.

Itinerary

Friday, January 16

Teams arriving early should report to the WPA Picnic Shelter House.

Saturday, January 17

8 am- 9:30 am	Check-in at the campsite HQ - teams receive maps, UTM plotters, safety vests, and racer packets. There will be a table for open teams and one for collegiate teams. Please pay attention to which line you are in for an easier and quicker check in process!
9:30 am	MANDATORY pre-race meeting. All racers must attend.
10:00 am	Race start for Open Division
10:30 am	Race start for Collegiate Division

When teams report for their respective start times they will receive a sealed envelope containing a list of checkpoints. At the appropriate start times, teams will then be allowed to open the envelope and begin the race. To make sure all teams can start on time, please report 15 minutes before your start time (as indicated) so that the appropriate materials can be handed out in a timely fashion.

Monday, January 19

10:30 am	Race ends
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Course Information

The race will begin and end at the WPA Picnic Shelter House in Yellowwood State Forest. This year's course is over 30 miles as the crow flies with 3 legs. Teams are divided into two race groups, Open and Collegiate with respective start times of 10:00 am and 10:30 am. Race groups are assigned randomly and will be given during the check in process. 15 minutes prior to the start times each team must report to the starting area where they will receive a sealed envelope containing a punch card for the first leg along with a list of all checkpoints, though all coordinates may not be available at this time. The envelope must remain sealed until instructed to open by the race director at race start.

Once teams have visited each checkpoint and punched the appropriate space on the punch card from the first leg, and checked in with F/W East, they should return to the Shelter HQ where the first leg punches will be verified by race officials. The punch card will be collected, checked, and teams will be issued their punch card for the second leg. Teams must stop by F/W North at some point during the second leg. When finished with the second leg teams proceed to HQ and then the third and final leg. Teams must stop at F/W West to check in at some point during the third leg. Upon completion of the race, or if dropping out (see official rules section on dropping out), all racers must return to the Shelter HQ where officials will verify the completed punches and collect the punch card. Even if teams only complete a portion of a leg, the punch card must be turned in to race officials, as it will be used to tabulate race results. Failure to checkout, whether finishing the race or dropping out, will result in disqualification and potentially denied admission to future POCAR events.

Registration Information

A team will be officially registered once we have received payment and signed waivers from at least four members of a team. It is the responsibility of the team to ensure that all team members have filled out forms and have paid their respective registration fees. Registration will be done through IMLeagues, and payment will be collected through TooCOOL. IMLeagues does not allow a team to be fully registered until payment and paperwork are done.

Open Division vs. Collegiate Division

There are two divisions, and therefore there is a winner from each division. An open division team is considered any team that has any non-student on the team. A student is anyone currently enrolled in college (does not have to be Purdue). If any member of your team is not currently a student, then the entire team races in the Open Division. If every member of your team is a student then your team is in the Collegiate Division. Note that no matter what division your team is a part of, you still pay the amount for the division you individually fit into.

Short summary: If every member of your team signs up as Purdue Outing Club Member or Non-Outing Club Member Collegiate then your team races in the Collegiate Division. If this is not the case, then your team races in the Open Division.

Cancellation Policy

Please note that there are no refunds for this event in case of cancellation before or during the race, or if you drop out.

Rules

Racers are responsible for reading the rules as outlined in “POCAR 2026 Race Rules.” Failure to abide by the rules will result in expulsion from the race.

Note that the rule sheet contains a list of required items. These items *must* be on the team at all times during the race. Random checks to ensure that the team has these items will be conducted.

Emergency Contact during Race

In case of an emergency and a racer’s family needs to reach the team in the midst of the race, they can call one of the coordinators. Note that this procedure should be used in case of emergency ONLY, and that racers are responsible for providing this information to their family before the race. Cell service in the forest is not reliable, so immediate response is not guaranteed. If the coordinator doesn’t have service, family members are to leave the following information in the form of a voicemail or text message: team member name, the message that they are trying to deliver, and their information to call them back. Coordinators will occasionally be able to get service, in which case they will notify all volunteers and teams to look for the racer, and the racer and their team will be taken back to HQ to respond to the emergency.

This procedure will take time. The remoteness of the location is part of the nature of the race. Although reliable plans are in place to be able to contact emergency medical services in case of a medical emergency, it is not possible at the time to provide a convenient and fast method of contacting the teams.

Phone numbers:

Elina Gorenstein, Race Coordinator	765-409-6271
Carina Jacobson, Registration Coordinator	812-929-1757
Rami Hage, Volunteer Coordinator	317-922-5828

Contact Information

The primary contact used by coordinators is: pocarcoordinators@gmail.com

If you have any questions about racing, contact the race coordinator, *Elina Gorenstein*, at: egorenst@purdue.edu

If you have questions about registration, contact the registration coordinator, *Carina Jacobson*, at: jacob258@purdue.edu

If you have questions about volunteering, contact the volunteer coordinator, *Rami Hage*, at: rhage@purdue.edu