

Welcome to the 46th Billygoat Run!

When you Arrive: *you must check in with registration BOTH to clear and check AND to register with results.*

Billygoat and Kid details

Billygoat: 13.4 km, 420 m climb, 29 controls, with one skip and one fork. Map scale 1:10,000, contour interval 5 m.

Kid: 7.9 km, 255 m climb, 18 controls, with one skip and one fork. Map scale 1:7,500, contour interval 5 m.

Maps are printed on Teslin waterproof paper; no bags provided or needed.

Walk to Start for Billygoat and Kid: leaves from registration at 10:40 am sharp! (700 m, flat). Don't be late!

Skipped Control: Billygoat and Kid competitors may skip one and only one control. Any control. But only one. Choose wisely.

Forked Control: There is one forked control on both the Billygoat and the Kid. There will be two different controls with the same number shown on the map; you choose which fork to visit (you may also choose this as your skipped control). Pay close attention to the control sequence around the forking, as the geometry is a bit unusual!

Following: Following other competitors is explicitly permitted.

Microwave Ovens: Carrying microwave ovens is also explicitly permitted.

Changing from Billygoat to Kid: The Billygoat and Kid share the same first 12 controls and both allow for one skipped control. Therefore, any Billygoat runners who reach the refreshment stop at control 12 and decide that they want a shorter adventure can switch to the Kid. To do so, tell the crew on duty at the refreshment stop that you want to switch to the Kid and they will give you instructions about which controls you still have to visit. There is NOT an option to switch from the Kid up to the Billygoat during the event.

Spectator control: Shortly before the end of the Billygoat and Kid courses, competitors will return to the assembly area and pass by two controls visible from the assembly area. (These are controls 25 and 26 on the Goat, and controls 16 and 17 on the Kid). Billygoat runners will head out on a short final loop (heh heh heh ...) before returning to the finish. Kid runners will go straight from the spectator control to the last ('go') control. Between the two visible controls competitors have to cross the park road. Please pay attention to traffic! There is nobody stopping traffic here (but if a car is passing you can run along parallel to the road before crossing).

T-Shirts: Custom designed T-shirts will be awarded to all Billygoat registrants who finish within 3½ hours. The 3:30 limit is ruthlessly enforced.

Special Snacks and Drinks: Billygoat and Kid participants can leave at registration before the start any special drinks/snacks that you want at the midway refreshment stop (at control 12; Billygoat runners will likely pass close by it again later on as well). **Important:** the refreshment stop is remote, so (1) please minimize weight and volume (we have to carry everything you give us for nearly a mile), and (2) assume that you will not get back anything that was taken there after the race, unless you are willing to do the 3 km roundtrip to get it yourself. We will have water, Gatorade, bananas, chips, and cookies at the refreshment stop already; no need to give us those. Also, please do not waste the supplies we have at the refreshment stop if possible: we can't resupply if we run low.

There is one additional water stop earlier in the race; this only has water.

Champion Club Award: The most important part of the Billygoat. The Head Goat has absolute power. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. We'll just note here that bribing the Head Goat is explicitly allowed.

Score details

90 minutes time limit, choose your own adventure, 29 controls. Map scale 1:7,500, contour interval 5 m.

Score event start and finish are at the registration area. You can start any time from 11:15 am to 1:00 pm.

The score event map shows the 29 controls. They are worth either 1, 2, or 3 points (you can see the number in the right-hand column of the control descriptions). You can visit the controls in any order.

Your score is the sum of the points for the controls you visit, minus a penalty if you return overtime. Penalty is 2 points per minute or part thereof (1 to 60 seconds late: lose 2 points; 61 to 120 seconds: lose 4 points, ...).

Important: Forbidden Features

1. Real goats can apparently swim, if reluctantly. but **YOU** are **NOT ALLOWED** to swim. Specifically, in this event, **you may NOT swim or otherwise cross any water feature (lakes, marshes) mapped as uncrossable (that is, with a black bank line)**. Even if it is a tempting route choice.
2. At the north end of the park road, the main park stream (Bigelow Brook) flows out of Mashapaug Pond over a small dam. **You are NOT allowed to cross this dam**. If your route choice takes you this way, you can cross the stream safely immediately below the dam.
3. CT-171, the main road along the south border of the map, from which you turned off to enter the park, is a forbidden route. It has high-speed traffic, narrow edges, and short sight lines. **You may not use it as a route choice even for a very short distance**. (If you want to travel parallel to it, run in the woods next to it. The footpath along the dam wall CT-171 crosses just west of the park entrance is also fine). For extra clarity, we explicitly marked the road as forbidden in one place, but it is forbidden along its entire length.

Other Safety Issues

- You must check in at the finish even if you do not complete the course. If you become very lost, bail out towards the main park road (if you know where you are relative to it), or, if totally lost, head south until you reach CT-171.
- Both Billygoat and Kid runners have to cross the park road twice, and score-O competitors might cross it if they choose to do so. Be careful crossing the road! Cars may not be looking for you. The speed limit is 10 mph but traffic definitely moves faster than that.
- Ticks are as active this year as I can remember. Please check yourself for ticks after you run.

Medical Care: Two nearby medical care facilities are below (for information only, not a recommendation):

- UMass Memorial Health-Harrington Hospital Southbridge Campus Emergency Department – 100 South St. Southbridge, MA. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/jbRQe58nS6GWbJiSA> (20 min. drive)
- ConvenientMD Urgent Care Sturbridge, 216 Charlton Rd, Sturbridge, MA 01566. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/jm8WrxgmET9zFvB7A> (17 min. drive)

Parking fees: Bigelow Hollow State Park charges a \$15 parking fee on weekends to cars that do not have CT license plates. (CT residents pay through a surcharge on vehicle registrations charged to all CT residents.) You can pay only on the day of the visit (you can't buy in advance). Before Memorial Day, payments are collected only online through Reserve America, <https://connecticutstateparks.reserveamerica.com/> - select 'Day Passes' and then choose 'Bigelow Hollow Day Pass.' Make sure to pick the weekend version.

Out-of-state car drivers might want to consider carpooling. One option (directly en route for those coming from MA) is to meet at the Park and Ride on CT-171 just off I-84 at exit 74: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/iZVW9RLTd8TaS6W39>

(Mashamoquet Brook State Park, site for Saturday's events, is free of charge.)

Thanks! Here is a list of a lot of people who have helped to make today's event happen. Thank you to all of them!

Head Goat: William Hawkins

Event co-directors: Susie DeWitt and Ellen Morse.

Registrar: Earl LaVallee

T-shirt design: Anna Morse

Vetting: Jim Henderson and Rich Nietupski

Results: Mark O'Connell (NEOC) and Jim Paschetto (NEOC)



Refreshment aid station: Rich Nietupski and Chris Parietti

Food: Harold Ellis

First aid: Sue Godlewski

Day-of-meet help: Rick DeWitt, Stephen Richardson, Hayden Morse, Megan Hardy, Betsy and Ben Therrien and more ...

Aquatic infrastructure: the Arnesson-Galler family

Notes about the mapping

The map is in excellent condition despite being a few years old now. Some quick comments:

Water

- **Lakes and marshes mapped as 'uncrossable' are forbidden. Do not try to cross them**, even if it's tempting.
- All other water (streams, marshes) shown on the map is crossable pretty much anywhere, at least if you don't mind getting your feet wet. You can usually find a place to hop across on rocks and logs and keep your feet dry. Marshes mapped as 'indistinct' can usually be crossed with dry feet by hopping from log to rock to root to moss clump. Marshes mapped as crossable but distinct might lead to wet feet.
- All mapped beaver dams can be crossed without much difficulty.
- There is one place where recent beaver activity has flooded a forest road, but trail maintainers have built a new parallel foot trail. The map has been updated to show this.

Vegetation

- The map was originally made in 2020, but the vegetation mapping is still quite accurate. Laurel grows slowly.
- Most of the darkest two shades of green represent mountain laurel, with dark green ('fight') for the thickest sections and medium green ('walk') for slightly sparser sections. Sometimes medium green also represents thick young pines or other bushy vegetation. Light green can be laurel or young pines growing close together.
- The course is designed to avoid the worst of the laurel. However, at Bigelow Hollow, you cannot orienteer without dealing with laurel from time to time. If the map shows a passage through the laurel / green, it may not be 100% exactly as mapped (for example, gaps between thickets may have closed up just a little, or medium green may have become easier to get through), but you can likely get through fairly easily.
- If your route involves going straight through dark green, you will probably regret it.
- Areas of fallen timber are often not mapped at all (that is, they are shown as white woods). But there are not many areas of the map where fallen timber impacts runnability, so this will not be much of an issue.
- Very small thickets are not always mapped (in particular, one or two laurel bushes standing alone will likely be left off the map, not mapped as a very small green blob).

Rock

- Some rock features mapped as 'impassable cliffs' are vertical, some are not. The requirement for the feature to be mapped that way is that it would be dangerous to try climbing it.
- In the parts of the map where there are lots of rocks close together, the mapper was more demanding about what rocks met the standard to be mapped as boulders or cliffs than in areas with fewer rocks. Where they stand by themselves far from any other rocks, boulders as small as 0.5 m are sometimes shown. In other areas, these may be generalized as a boulder field or not shown at all.

Human-made features

- In rocky areas and along lake shores, footpaths can be rocky or rooty, and may be slower than you hope.
- The orienteering map covers both Bigelow Hollow State Park and part of Nipmuck State Forest. The boundary is marked on trees by signs and paint blazes in some places; you can ignore it. It's not on the map.

Terrain photos, map, and previous courses

- You can find the courses and many photos from the 2022 Masters Nationals at the Orienteering USA recap site at <https://orienteeringusa.org/2022/10/2022-orienteering-usa-masters-nationals/>

Billygoat Countdown Calendar

- We created a Billygoat Countdown Calendar to get you in the mood for the event. It's available at <https://app.myadvent.net/calendar?id=kj6h0tp8allnrrb92bkgkk3vejb0fe56> – enjoy! (And maybe even find some hints about what to expect – or to fear, heh heh heh ...)