



THE POWER OF FOUR

SKI MOUNTAINEERING RACE 2011



Course Description

Please note, as usual, this course is subject to change given guest traffic, weather, conditions and other safety concerns.

- Stage 1: Snowmass
 - Start at 7:15am in Base Village (at the base of the Village Express lift in Snowmass)
 - Skin up Snowmass to the top of the High Alpine lift via Fanny Hill and Green Cabin
 - Ski/skin to Elk Camp via Roberto's, Lower Ladder and Sandy Park runs
 - Ski/skin the ridge from Elk Camp to Buttermilk by exiting the Burnt Mountain Gate and staying to skiers right of the Sugar Bowls

- Stage 2: Buttermilk
 - Enter Buttermilk at the top of the West Buttermilk Express
 - Ski down Tiehack Parkway towards the Tiehack parking lot via Javelin (aid station location/end of race for half-course participants)

- Stage 3: Aspen Highlands
 - From the Tiehack parking lot base area the course goes over the ARC bridge and around the back of the Aspen Rec. Center to a trail parallel to the road to the base of Highlands
 - Cross the road at the end of the trail and head up Thunderbowl Lane. Cross to the right at Prospector Rd and enter the lookers left side of Highlands Base Village. Take a left at the flag to enter the Thunder Bowl. Head up Thunder Bowl next to Golden Horn and to T-Lazy-7 catwalk
 - Continue up Wine Ridge and the Face of Oly; continue to the top of the Highlands Bowl until reaching Highland Peak
 - Ski down the bowl until you reach the entrance of the Grand Reverse catwalk exit to skiers left. Stay to the skiers right on the Grand Reverse until you reach the entrance to the Congo Trail, also on skiers right (you will also see an Aid Station here)
 - Take the Congo Trail down to Castle Creek Road
 - Cross Castle Creek Road and proceed up Midnight Mine Road

- Stage 4: Aspen Mountain
 - Take Midnight Mine Road up to the Sundeck
 - Ski down to the base of Lift 1A via Buckhorn, Midway Traverse, International, Silver Queen and Lower Ten Road.

Approximate Course Distance: 25 miles; Approximate Course Vertical: 11,000 feet

Course Sections of Note

- Backcountry area between Snowmass and Buttermilk

Upon exiting the Snowmass Gate beyond Elk Camp you will be entering a backcountry area; part of which is a Lynx Conservation Area (LCA) designated by the USFS. While the course does not enter the LCA it does come very close. The USFS has given us special permission to run our course close to the LCA and we want to be extremely respectful of their allowance.

The course traverses the ridge the entire way to the entrance of Buttermilk. While relevant for the entire course, please be particularly aware of course markings and tracks- do not venture off-course for any reason especially while in this section. If you are unsure as to the direction of the course please ask a Marshal. Racers will be automatically disqualified for venturing off-course. At no point is it appropriate to dip down into the Sugar Bowls. As is intolerable for the entire course as well we'd like to reiterate that wrappers/cups/trash may not be thrown on the ground; please wait for a garbage bin or keep it in a pocket/backpack until the race is over. We, and the USFS, thank you for your cooperation especially in this particularly unique area.

- Buttermilk to Highlands
After crossing the ARC bridge you will head up a short Nordic course that runs behind the Aspen Rec. Center and connects to a paved path running parallel to Maroon Creek Rd. Head along this path towards Highlands Base Village on-foot before crossing the road at the pedestrian cross walk (use caution, vehicles may be present) and heading through the Village to start up Highlands via the Thunder Bowl.
- Highlands Bowl hike
Portions of the trail to the summit of the Highlands Bowl are very narrow and it is important to be extra diligent of guest and racer safety. When passing guests and racers please use caution and give a warning that you are overtaking.
- Exiting the Highlands Bowl via Grand Reverse
The Grand Reverse is a slight uphill skin on a catwalk that generally funnels skiers down towards the Deep Temerity lift. Please stay to your right while on this trail as downhill skiers/snowboarders will be entering from your left wanting to head in the opposite direction as you.
- Congo Trail
During the summer this is a single-track mountain bike trail that switches back and forth down the side of Aspen Highlands. The trail is narrow and only loosely maintained- small branches may be present.
 - Please use caution when navigating through this particular area of the course
 - If the trail gets very well trafficked and you do not feel comfortable skiing it is okay to bootpack though please stay to the side of the trail
 - Do not cut the switch-backs; stay on the designated trail
 - Be aware of potential racers ahead
 - Especially in this section, if you need to stop in this section please pull off to the side
 - Be respectful of the local road crossing prior to Castle Creek Road
- Midnight Mine Rd.
Though the majority of the road is snow-covered this is still a functioning road and is not closed to traffic. Please stay to one side of the road as vehicles or snowmobiles may be present.
- Finish at Lift 1A
Please note the finish will not be at Gondola Plaza- once entering Aspen Mountain from the Sundeck area you will take Buckhorn and continue down to Lower Ten Road across towards the base of Lift 1A via Silver Queen.

Detail of Route from Tiehack Aid Station at Base of Buttermilk to the base of Highlands



Please contact Pete Swenson at ussmaski@gmail.com with any race related questions.