

UNCLE JOHN'S GRAVEL RACE – RACE DAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Parking, registration, start, finish, and awards will all take place at the Uncle John's Cider Mill, 8614 US-127, St Johns, MI 48879. Packet pick-up is available Friday night (9/12) from 4pm-7pm & again on Saturday (9/13) beginning at 7:00am.

If you have not already done so, please read the "Details" page on the www.unclejohnsgravelrace.com web site.

PARKING

When turning into the entrance of Uncle John's Cider Mill drive all the way to the back of the parking area. This is where everything for the gravel race will happen. Please see the "Race grounds Map" on our website for more guidance. **DO NOT** park near the buildings and barns on the West side of the property. This is meant for customers that only want to go to the Cider Mill.

BEDLAM BICYCLE COMPANY is our Official Bike Shop. Bedlam will be on hand on race day for repairs and adjustments at no charge. If you need parts, you **MUST** pay for them at the time of service. On course bike support will be provided by Diane Ruggles, whose contact information will be on the back of your race number plate.

RACE STAGING – As you enter the staging area, we ask that the faster riders start in the front and slower riders start near the back. As you enter the start finish area, you will see signs with anticipated average race speeds. The first sign you will see is 0-12 mph, followed by 13-15 mph, 16-18mph, 19-21 mph and finally at the start line 22+ mph. Please line up behind the appropriate sign for your anticipated speed. A few minutes before the actual start, we will have everyone move up / or close any gaps between the signs for the start. Please do not stage your bike in the start area until staging opens for your race distance.

RULES - Safety should always be on your mind. Yes, this is a race, but it please think of your safety as well as your competitors' safety when competing in this event.

- Do not fold, bend, curve, or alter race number plates in any way. The number with the computer chip sticker on the back must be tied to the front of your bike without bending it so that it can be read. If altered you are subject to being disqualified.
- ELECTRIC/MOTOR ASSISTED BIKES are not allowed because of drafting advantage concerns for other riders.
- NO aero bars (Great for time trials, but become dangerous when riding in a pack if a crash occurs)
- Any rider who follows/drafts a motor vehicle will be disqualified
- Helmets are mandatory for this event.
- NO headphones allowed while riding. You need to hear what is going on around you in this event.
- IT IS THE RACER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO FOLLOW THE MAP AND KNOW THEIR COURSE. The entire course is marked with directional signs, paint arrows on the edge of the road, and confidence dots painted on the side of the road after a turn. Corner worker volunteers and Law Enforcement will also be present on some corners and/or intersections on the racecourse to direct you, but it is ultimately your responsibility to stay on the route. We encourage all riders to study their maps and download the course maps for navigation computers beforehand.
- Although considered a race, riders must still follow Michigan laws of the roads. This includes stopping at **stop signs**.
- For safety reasons we ask the slower riders to move towards the right side of the roadway and yield to the group of riders behind them. This is for the safety of both the faster and slower groups of riders. Racers who are not part of the lead group are asked to call out to slower riders and advise them of your passing intentions prior to overtaking them. The most accepted way of doing this is to call out "ON YOUR LEFT" as you approach a slower rider.
- For safety as well as courtesy to your fellow riders, if you have to stop and walk your bike up a hill, please do this on the right side of the road and leave the left open for those very fast climbers.
- Fat Tire Bikes – To qualify for the division your tires must be at least 3.7 inches (94mm) wide.
- You must also be present for the awards presentation to receive your awards. We will not send awards to you after the race.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 12, 2026

- 9:00am 5k run. For details www.gourdypumpkinrun.com
- 9:00am Uncle John's Cider Mill Opens <https://www.ujcidermill.com>
- 11:00am Free RV and tent camping area opens (See "Race Grounds Map" at www.unclejohnsgravelrace.com prior to setting up. Don't disturb the 5k run)
- 2:00pm Free leisurely group ride starts at the start finish line area
- 4-7pm Packet Pickup Party at the Uncle John's Hard Cider Taproom with a live music, food trucks, tons of things to do for the entire family.
- 7:00pm Packet Pickup Party at the Uncle John's Hard Cider Taproom concludes

Sunday September 13, 2026

- 7:00am Registration opens at the Uncle John's Cider Mill
- 8:00am FREE Kids races 0-6, 7-9, 10-12
- 8:30am 57 mile race staging opens
- 8:50am 57 mile pre race instructions
- 9:00am 57 mile race starts
- 9:45am 28 mile race staging opens
- 10:05am 28 mile pre race instructions
- 10:15am 28 mile race starts
- 10:20am 16 mile race staging opens
- 10:35am 16 mile pre race instructions
- 10:45am 16 mile race starts
- 12:35pm Cut off time for podium awards eligibility
- 12:40pm Race results become official
- 12:50pm Podium awards begin at the main stage

CELEBRATION & AWARDS - After you finish your race, we invite you to visit out vendors as well as everything the Uncle John's Cider Mill has to offer. Be sure to bring your lunch tickets and beverage tickets with you when you come to the awards/celebration area. YOU MUST PRESENT YOUR TICKETS TO BE SERVED. A limited number of additional lunch tickets are available for purchase a at the Registration/Merch Area. Awards presentations will begin at the awards stage at 12:50pmpm. FYI, WE DO NOT MAIL AWARDS AFTER THE EVENT.

PHOTOS – Our official photographers are **Christina Bowers Photography and Stellafly**. Event photos will be made available through our Uncle John's Gravel Race Facebook page and at <https://www.cbowersphotography.com> and <https://www.flashframe.io/search/2742/>

THANK YOU – Our goal is to do our best to provide all of our racers with a great race experience. We hope you have a great day and wish to visit us at one of our other gravel races in Michigan!

