

2017 Great Pumpkin Run FAQs

Overview

The Venetucci Great Pumpkin Run began in 2006 by lover of good wine, food, and farming, Bob Small. Bob started the event to promote healthy outdoor activity and awareness of the working farm's role throughout the Pikes Peak region. That first year drew 29 adults in the 5K and 10K runs and about the same number of children under age 10, who covered either a .25 or .50-mile distance. After the race, the young runners descended upon the pumpkin patch to choose, and then carry, a certain orange vegetable from field to parents' automobile. Each year since, the race, which winds through a wide variety of beautiful terrain on both Venetucci Farm and adjacent Pinello Ranch, has grown into a popular family event, attracting hundreds of runners in early October to support the farm and enjoy a wonderful fall morning.

FAQs

Q: When is the race in 2017?

A: The 12th annual race will take place the morning of Saturday, October 7. The 10K starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by the 5K at 9:45 a.m. and children's races at 11:30 a.m.

Q: What are the race courses?

A: Save a small (less than quarter mile) stretch of loose asphalt the race is run entirely on dirt. Both races run along the perimeter of the farm, providing racers with a beautiful view of the entire farm, including the barn, horses, cows, chickens, and the pumpkin patch. The race begins on a dirt road on Venetucci, transitions into single track through the trees along Fountain Creek where white-tailed deer and wild turkeys reside, and then returns to dirt road. There is virtually no elevation change. The 10K extends north into the adjacent 300 acre Pinello Ranch. The children's races start by the adult races and include a quarter or half-mile loop that finishes in the same location. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to join their child free of charge.

Q: Where can I register?

A: Go to www.ppcf.org/venetucci-farm/ and click "Register Here" through 3pm Thursday, October 5 (\$35). The price increases to \$40 Thursday evening through the start of the race. In person registration is available at Runners Roost through 5 p.m. Friday, Oct 6 or at the farm on race day. Children can register on race morning for \$5.

Q: Who manages the race?

A: A volunteer race director manages the race, and area volunteers join PPCF staff to assist in all other race areas, including day of registration, packet pickup, parking and awards. Chip timing is provided through Pikes Peak Road Runners, who will provide results shortly following race completion (~11 a.m.).

Q: What are the age groups and awards? Is there any SWAG?

A: Overall male and female champions will receive awards at the awards celebration following the 5 and 10K runs, approximately 11:00. Awards will also be given to first, second and third place male and female finishers in the following divisions: 19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+. There will also be a division – three deep – for visually impaired competitors. Awards will be donations provided by race sponsors.

In 2017 each adult participant will receive a Venetucci running cap, water bottle, or T-shirt. These will be distributed the morning of the race and choice will be limited by availability. Participants in Kids Race will be allowed to visit the pumpkin patch for a free pumpkin.

Q: Where can I pick up my race bib?

A: Packet pickup takes place at Runners Roost, 121 N Tejon St. between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, October 6, and at the red barn at the farm on race day beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Swag will be distributed at the farm on race day.

Q: Is there anything to do following the race?

A: The pumpkin patch will be open to the public following the children's race from noon until 3pm. You are invited to visit the patch and purchase pumpkins at .50/lb. You are also welcome to walk around the farm, including our self-guided bird hike. If farmer Patrick is not too busy he may be offering hay rides.

Q: Is childcare provided?

A: Yes! Anyone interested in receiving care for their child age 10 and younger is asked to arrive at the barn between 8:30-9:15 a.m. on race day. This service is provided at no cost by high school age members of the National Charity League.

Q: Where do the race proceeds go?

A: All net proceeds go to support education programs at Venetucci Farm.

Q: Is there a water station? And what about restrooms?

A: Yes, an aid station will be available just past Mile 2 and, for 10K participants, again at Mile 5. Portable restrooms will be on site west of the start/finish line, on the far side of the chicken coop.

Q: Where do I park?

A: Parking will be available at St. Dominick's Church, located just south of the farm. Overflow parking will be on the farm if the church lot fills. Please do not try to access the main farm entry, which will be closed on race day.

Q: May I bring my dog to the farm?

A: We're sorry, but because of all the animals on the farm, including the very territorial farm dogs, we do not allow visitors to bring their dogs to the farm. Because it is likely to be warm out, it is not a good idea to leave them in your car. Please leave them at home.