



*The World's Toughest Bicycle Race*

Oceanside, CA to Atlantic City, NJ – 3000 miles

# 2026 GEAR Book

*A Pre-Race Guide*

**Updated January 2026**

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Greetings RAAM Racers and Crew,

Welcome to Race Across America – *the World's Toughest Bicycle Race!* By now there has been a great deal of preparation on everybody's part. Our efforts for the 2026 race—the 44th edition of RAAM—began months ago and 2026 promises to be another great Race. We know that you have been working hard as well. The following material is essential in helping you translate your hard work into a successful race.

The GEAR Book contains important information for race planning. It covers race details, some logistics and schedules. A draft copy of the rules is available on-line. Additional information is available on the RAAM website ([www.raamrace.org](http://www.raamrace.org)), under the Race Resources section. There you will find information on race preparation, supplies, pertinent articles and much more.

We will do our best to ensure that your race experience is enjoyable and as safe as possible. You must do your part by being prepared to race and pedaling the bike is only part of the process. Read this material, visit the website, train hard, and come ready to race!

Should you have any questions, concerns or otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact us. Good luck with your endeavors. We will see you in California!

Thank you and happy cycling,

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# Table of Contents

Last Update – January 2026

<b>General Information</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Race Across America 2026.....	3
How to Follow the Race .....	4
<b>Resources</b> .....	<b>5</b>
RAAM Website .....	5
Crewing Seminars.....	6
Other Resources .....	7
Logo Usage Guidelines.....	7
<b>RAAM Record Systems (RSS) and Race Details</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Race and Registration Information .....	9
RAAM - Registration, Payment, Refund and Late Fee Policies.....	9
RAAM - What Is Included in Your Entry Fee?.....	10
Pre-Race Communications.....	12
RRS Documentation .....	12
Instructions for the RRS.....	13
Racer Numbers.....	16
RAAM - Race Divisions.....	16
RAAM - Time, Checkpoints and Finishing Status .....	18
Awards .....	22
<b>Supplies</b> .....	<b>23</b>
Store .....	23
Race Supplies.....	23
<b>Pre-Race &amp; Start Line - Logistics, Planning, Facilities</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Pre-Race & Start Line Location and Facilities .....	24
Scheduling.....	27
Schedule by Activity.....	27
Check-In and Clearance to Race Forms.....	29
Parking & Driving.....	29
Start Line – Staying Energized .....	30
The Actual Start – Start to Old Castle Road.....	30
First Day – Old Highway 395 to Borrego Springs (TS1).....	32
<b>Race Communications &amp; Headquarters</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>Route &amp; Navigation</b> .....	<b>34</b>
Route and Navigation .....	34
Online Route Information.....	34
Route Book .....	35
RAAM Navigation.....	35
Electronic Navigation .....	36
Using the Route Book.....	36
Sample Directions.....	38
<b>Finish - Logistics, Planning, Facilities</b> .....	<b>39</b>
Finish Line Location and Facilities.....	41



# General Information

## Race Across America 2026

### **RAAM - What is it?**

Race Across America (RAAM) is the world's preeminent and longest running endurance bicycle race. Racers and their Support Crews start in oceanside, CA and ride 3,000 miles coast-to coast across the USA, finishing in Atlantic City, NJ.

Unlike other famous races such as the Giro de Italia, Vuelta a Espana, and Tour de France, RAAM has no stages. During RAAM, the clock runs continuously. Also, unlike other famous stage races, pros and amateurs race together, and there are a number of different divisions, all on the race route together. Drafting is not allowed, and since it is a "single-stage" race, the first one to finish in each division wins.

*Outside Magazine* ranked RAAM as the World's Toughest Endurance Race for its grueling Solo Division. But RAAM has evolved into much more. Today, this transcontinental endeavor continues to be the ultimate test of the solo athlete's ability, determination, and fortitude. However, teams now comprise the majority of the race field. Both solos and teams use RAAM as a platform for their philanthropic causes and each year raise millions of dollars for these causes.

As a solo endeavor, RAAM is the longest ultra-cycling race in the world and for those who finish may be the accomplishment of a lifetime. However, as a relay team RAAM offers not only an opportunity to be challenged, but to have fun and create memories that will last a lifetime. Moreover, racing as a relay team, finishing RAAM becomes a more achievable goal for many cyclists.

### **General Race Information**

On Tuesday, June 16, 2026, the Solo racers depart Oceanside, CA on the 44th edition of RAAM. Competitors climb over 170,000 feet while passing through 13 states in their 3,000-mile campaign to the finish line in Atlantic City, NJ. Teams start on Saturday, June 14. Divisions included in the race are male and female, Standard (Diamond Frame), Tandem, Recumbent and Solo as well as 2-, 4- and 8- Person Teams. There are also various age groupings within these divisions.

There are two sections where racers are shuttled – up Oak Creek Canyon, AZ and across The Delaware Memorial Bridge - and two non-racing sections (parade sections) at both the start and finish of RAAM. These sections are short and are designed for safety and logistical reasons.



### **Where does the race start?**

RAAM begins near the Pier in Oceanside, California.

### **What are the starting times?**

- Solo Racers start on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm (PDT).
- Teams start on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm (PDT).

### **Where do they finish?**

- RAAM finishes at Kennedy Plaza on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

### **When do they finish?**

- Racers begin arriving in Atlantic City Wednesday evening, June 24<sup>th</sup>. All Racers must finish by 3:00pm (EDT), Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. The course closes at 3:00pm (EDT), Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Supported Charities**

Race Across America, Race Across the West, and Race Across the East is honored to help our Racers and Crews support their favorite charitable causes. There are 50-plus charities represented every year, and the aggregate funds raised have exceeded \$2 million per year. We look forward to hearing your stories and supporting your efforts. We are proud to be such an important platform for charitable opportunities.

## **How to Follow the Race**

### **Media Coverage**

Television, radio, newspaper, and other media will cover the races with the news angle that best suits their respective audiences. The markets surrounding the start, finish, and time stations along the route will receive updates during the months and weeks before the race arrives.

### **Media and Publicity Support**

Racers are encouraged to pitch their own media contacts for coverage of their specific race efforts. Guidelines and templates will be available on the website in the Resources Sections.

### **Web Coverage**

We use the outreach of RAAM to assist in covering the race on-line. In 2025, the RAAM Facebook page received over 3 million page views during the two-week period of the race! Rather than using resources to film and produce a story for broadcast months after RAAM, we believe the fan base of RAAM craves news about their favorite Racers, in a timely manner. Therefore, RAAM will deploy reporters, photographers and videographers along the route, and feed current race information (written reports, photos and video clips) to the website on an hourly basis during the entire race.



Social Media - we fully utilize the easy accessibility of social media.

Facebook - @raceacrossamerica

Instagram - @raceacrossamerica

YouTube - @RAAMmedia

Twitter - @RAAMraces

Note: Please use hashtag - #RAAM2026, #raceacrossamerica2026

Website –

[www.raamrace.org](http://www.raamrace.org)

Live Racer Tracking will be provided on the website.

Live Stream of the Start and Finish will be provided on social media.

Please direct family, friends, supporters and local media to the web sites and social media outlets!

## Resources

### RAAM Website ([www.raamrace.org](http://www.raamrace.org))

#### General Information

This GEAR Book provides the bare essentials for race preparation. The Race Across America (RAAM) ([www.raamrace.org](http://www.raamrace.org)) and other endurance-based websites have an abundant amount of material on all aspects of the race, including training, equipment, supplies, race strategies, budgeting, results, and much more. We highly recommend that you take time to review available websites to understand the scope of resources available.

Website resources include:

- **Rules** – The full rules for the 2026 race.
- **GEAR Book** – A pre-race guide.
- **Start/Finish City Information** – Additional downloads for Oceanside and Atlantic City, including hotels, services and maps.
- **Clearance to Race Forms** – This packet, including all required forms, are available for download.
- **Race Supplies** – Safety Kits (amber flashing lights and slow-moving vehicle triangle), cargo transport, and other race supplies.
- **Logos** – The RAAM logo and guidelines for use.
- **RAAM Qualifiers** – Information and links to all RAAM Qualifiers.
- **Gallery Videos** – Dozens of videos on YouTube from RAAM and from racers and crew showing what the race is really like.
- **Additional Media** – Live Racer Tracking



- **RAAM Store** – Source for merchandise and additional race supplies

### **Articles**

RAAM is a big undertaking. However, you don't have to reinvent the wheel to be successful. Much of the information you need to know is readily available through the RAAM website - [www.raamrace.org](http://www.raamrace.org). You will find many relevant articles on race logistics, preparation, budgets, communications, navigation, etc.

### **The RAAM website hosts the following sections:**

**About RAAM** – Basic information about the race. This is a great source of selling points to sponsors and charities and to explain to friends and family about the race.

**Media** – Information for Media and Press promoting the race. A link to sign up to the RAAM Newsletter, which the latest race news from RAAM-qualifying events around the world. Also, we provide Live Racer Tracking during the race.

**Store** – Purchase official RAAM merchandise including clothing and race videos. You can also reserve cargo space and purchase race supplies.

**Racers** – Who's racing this year including photos and biographical information.

**Route** – The complete route for 2026 in preliminary form. The FINAL route will be in the Route Book. GPS and route data for mapping software and several GPS devices is available in the Route section. The final route will not be determined until shortly before the start of the race. Route books will be distributed at the start in Oceanside, CA.

**Race Resources** – GEAR Book, Rules, Registration Forms, Articles, and Logos

## **Crewing Seminars**

The promoters of RAAM offer Crewing Seminars, typically held in January and February. Two-day Crewing Seminars cover everything you'll need to know to crew a successful RAAM campaign. RAAM staff and race veterans with years of endurance cycling and race experience will host our seminars. Our goal is to teach you what you need to know to be successful.

Information on our seminars is available on the website. Announcements are made in our newsletter and on Facebook as it becomes available. We urge you to attend our seminars even if you are already working with one or more coaches. We will cover material you will find nowhere else. Our seminars will not only enhance your overall experience, but also substantially improve your chances of overall success.



## Other Resources

### RAAM Veterans

Take time to speak with race veterans and crews, they very well may turn out to be your most valuable sources of information.

### Facebook – RAAM Ultra-Cycling Forum

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/523225327828742/>

## Logo Usage Guidelines

**In order to preserve the coherence of its image and fulfill contractual obligations, the RAAM logo must be correctly implemented.**

### Everyone:

- You may use the RAAM logo on your website provided it links to the Race Across America website ([www.raamrace.org](http://www.raamrace.org)).

### RAAM Racers and Time Stations:

- You may use the RAAM logo on your promotional and sponsorship materials.
- You may use the RAAM logo on race clothing, crew clothing, or clothing you provide or sell to raise funds provided the clothing also has your team name. You may not give away or sell clothing with just the RAAM logo on it.

Both Color and Black and White files are available through the web site. site – click on the Race Resources section and then Logo.

Always use the files provided by the Race Across America. Do not alter or redraw the logo.

### Main Points

- The shape of the RAAM logo may not be altered, overlapped, overlaid, or obscured in any way.
- An unmarked border must always surround the entire logo making it clearly separate and distinct from other text and images on the page. This border should be the same color as the page background.

**Questions:** Please direct any questions about the use of the logo to: [rick@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:rick@raceacrossamerica.org)



**Printing Process**

1 Color – Black

For black and white only reproduction. Use on white only background.



4 Colors

Use with 4 color process. Use on a light only background. See color scheme tables below.



**Digital Use**

The .JPG file formats are meant for on-screen use only.

**Background**

The logo must always appear against a single color background. This should be white. If the logo is to appear on a background of a different color, please contact us for approval.

**Colors**

To ensure consistency in corporate color reproduction, the chart below gives the color schemes for your reference.

**Red**

C	M	Y	K		R	G	B		Pantone	WEB
2	100	82	6		206	1	3		Coated 186	#CF142

**Blue**

C	M	Y	K		R	G	B		Pantone	WEB
100	75	2	17		0	5	147		Coated 287	#003896



# RAAM Record Systems (RSS) and Race Details

## Race and Registration Information

To register for RAAM, go to the RAAM website and click on **Registration**.

Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email. Then you will need to log in to the RAAM Records System (RRS) to enter your details. The complete instructions for the RRS are below. You can also find a link for the RRS Login at the top right side of the RAAM website home page.

RAAM race details are contained in the following documents:

- Race Divisions
- Time Cutoffs and Checkpoints
- What's Included in your Entry Fee
- Policies on Fees and Refunds

**Each of these documents can be found on the website under Race Resources.**

## RAAM - Registration, Payment, Refund and Late Fee Policies

### RAAM Registration

RAAM registration must be COMPLETE by April 15. Unless otherwise specified, all material must be completed online in the RAAM Records System (RRS). Your RAAM record is considered complete when the following are finished and submitted:

- Racer information (name, birthdate, address, etc.)
- Racer biography
- Photos of Racer that meets photo guidelines
- Primary Contact for Racer or Team
- Crew Chief for Racer or Team
- List of charities you are raising money for with contact info, if applicable
- Signed Racer Agreement and Waiver
- For Teams, every Racer must have completed all material above.
- Racers/Teams with incomplete applications will not be allowed to race. And, are subject to a fee of \$250



### **Changes to Registration**

- Team Name changes made after April 15 may incur an additional charge.
- Racer changes on a Team made after April 15 may not appear correctly in printed material.
- For Teams who register a Team Member after April 15, the new Team Member will have two weeks to complete the online application.
- You may switch divisions prior to April 15. After April 15, please contact us for applicable fees.

### **Payment, Discounts and Late Fees**

- Full payment of the entry fee is due by March 1.
- Racers will not be allowed to start until all fees are paid.
- All registrations initiated after March 1, will have until April 1 to make full payment and complete the online information.
- A minimum late registration fee of \$500 will be added for registrations between March 1 and April 15.
- No new registrations will be accepted after April 15. Teams may still add or change Racers.

### **Policy on Refunds and Rollovers:**

Please refer to the Registration page on the website for the Refund/Rollover Policy.

## **RAAM - What Is Included in Your Entry Fee?**

### **Infrastructure**

RAAM requires a year-round organizational effort. In addition to the tangible things each registered Racer receives, we also provide these all-important intangibles:

- A meticulously researched route that is safe & challenging.
- A headquarters staffed by 6-8 operators around the clock for 2 weeks
- Live Racer Tracking.
- Festive Start- and Finish-line activities and hospitality.
- Invitation to attend one of the two Post-Race Celebration events.
- Race officials on route, ensuring the safety, fairness and the integrity of the race.
- Ongoing consultation to support your race preparation, racing and marketing efforts.
- Promotional exposure for you and the charities for which you may be racing.



## **RAAM and Race Supplies**

Each Solo and Team in RAAM will receive the following:

- Route Books.
- 3 Vehicle Signage Kits and enough reflective tape for 2 bicycles per racer.
- Finisher medallions and Finisher jerseys for those who officially finish.
- GEAR Book (Electronic copy)
- Clearance to Race Forms (Electronic Copies)
- Official RAAM merchandise

## **RAAM Route Books**

The RAAM route is meticulously researched and recorded. The official Route Book includes maps, detailed landmarks, directions and other critical information.

- Solo – 3 Route Books
- 2- and 4-Person Teams – 4 Route Books
- 8-Person Teams – 6 Route Books

Additional Route Books are may be purchased at the RAAM Store or upon registration.

## **Vehicle Signage Kit and Reflective Tape**

Each Solo and Team will get 3 vehicle signage kits, one each for 3 support vehicles.

Each kit includes the following:

- 1 reflective “CAUTION BICYCLES AHEAD” sign for the back of the support vehicle.
- 4 personalized Racer number signs; one for each side of the support vehicle.
- 1 “RACE ACROSS AMERICA” windshield sign.
- 2 “Race Coverage” signs for the sides of the vehicles.
- Every Racer also receives: 2 Bicycle Numbers and 2 Helmet Numbers

If you have more than 3 Support Vehicles, you **MUST** purchase one Vehicle Signage Kit for each additional vehicle. RVs are considered Support Vehicles. You must order by April 15. You must use RAAM supplied signage.

Racers need to bring their own DOT approved reflective triangles and amber flashing lights for the rear of their support vehicles. These are available for purchase through the RAAM Store.

Reflective tape should be enough for 1 bike (1/4 in x 3 ft / 2.54 cm x 1 m). Each Solo and Team will get enough for 2 bikes per Racer.

## **Official RAAM Merchandise**

Every Racer receives a gift from RAAM.



## Pre-Race Communications

Once you have registered, Race Management will start sending periodic emails to all 2026 racers and crew listed in the RRS. These emails will include RRS reminders, information on local resources in Oceanside and Atlantic City, changes to race procedures, etc. It is vital that the Crew Chief receives and reads these emails in order to remain update on the race. It is also recommended all racers and crew read these communications. Emails will be sent from [info@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:info@raceacrossamerica.org) or [info@raceacrossamerica.ccsend.com](mailto:info@raceacrossamerica.ccsend.com), which may be blocked by some spam filters.

**If you or others on your team have not received an email (aside from the initial registration confirmation) from Race Across America by January 31st, please contact Race Management with an alternate email address.**

## RRS Documentation

This section contains instructions and information for entering data in the RRS. If you have any questions or need any help, please contact us.

### Questions About and Help with the RRS

For questions about the RRS please email – [director@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:director@raceacrossamerica.org)

The RRS address is [https://www.raceacrossamerica.org/orsnew/ors\\_Login/](https://www.raceacrossamerica.org/orsnew/ors_Login/)

### What you can do

With the RRS you are able to:

- Add or change Team members and Team information
- Provide complete information for each Racer
- Provide complete information about your Crew Chief and Crew
- Enter a biography for each Racer
- Enter information about your team and your team's goals, purpose or the charity you are supporting.
- Submit Racer and Team photos
- Provide information about charities you are supporting.
- Electronically sign the Racer Agreement and Release Waivers
- Reserve Check-in and Photo times
- Make payments online

When you enter your Team information it will be updated on the website almost immediately.

You are urged to provide complete and accurate information. This is important as this information will be used by both RAAM and external media as a source of information for articles and media coverage, which may highlight your team and the charity you support during your RAAM campaign.



# Instructions for the RRS

## Home Page

- This is the primary contact information for your team. **Please keep this up to date.**
- We use this email address for periodic updates.
- One team photo is required. A second is optional. Maximum size is 1MB. Accepted formats are jpg or gif.
- The Team/Entry Name is what will appear on the website
- The Team URL is your website if you have one. This is what we will link to.

## Race Info

This provides basic information on the race in which you are entered. Please review to verify the information is correct.

## Racers

- This must be complete for each racer.
- **Solo Racers must also fill out this section.**
- Required fields are:
  - First and Last Name
  - Gender
  - Address, City, State, Postal Code and Country
  - Birthdate
  - Primary Phone and email addresses
  - T-Shirt Size
  - Picture
- One picture is required for every racer. Maximum size is 1MB. Accepted formats are jpg or gif.
- The Racing Age is the oldest age you will be in the calendar year of the race (as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026). The Racing City, Racing State and Racing Country will be that which you represent during the 2026 race. If you are a citizen of one country and a legal resident of another, you may choose whichever you prefer.

## From the List of Racers - Electronic Signatures Instructions

The right-side link is for Waivers/Forms/Bio.

Every Racer will need to electronically sign 3 documents online:

- The Racer Agreement
- Release Waiver
- Drug Testing Agreement

In Addition:

- If the Racer is a minor (under 18), we will need a hardcopy with a parent or guardian signature.
- For each document we will send a confirmation email to the Racer's email (if provided) and the Crew Chief's email.
- Every Crew person will need to sign a Release Waiver at the Start.



### **Crew Chief and Crew**

Please add your Crew Chief. We want to know your Crew Chief so we can include their email address and add them to our distribution list for racer updates. We encourage you to add your crew members here, as well.

### **Charity/Media/Sponsor**

- Please add your charities.
- Please add your sponsors. We will display them on the website.
- You can add a logo for your charities and sponsors. Maximum size is 100k. Format is jpg or gif.
- You can add a website for each.

### **Fees and Payments**

All payments for entry and fees go through the RRS. We keep track of what you owe and what you've paid. You can pay any amount at any time. You must, however, have all fees paid by March 1 or you will incur late fees.

If you wish to pay via wire transfer or check, please email [director@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:director@raceacrossamerica.org) at the RAAM office for instructions.

### **Official Name, Team Name and Team Number**

Your Team Name, along with each Racer's Name, must be submitted by April 15. These are the names that will be officially referred to in all signage, publications, the website, media etc.

- Team Racer Numbers are assigned on March 15.
- Solo Racer Numbers on March 15. Solo Racers Numbers are lifetime numbers.
- All signage is ordered on April 15. The information listed for your Team in the RRS at that time will be used.
- An email will be sent to remind you to make final updates to the RRS.

### **Supplies**

The Supplies section shows what supplies you ordered and provides links to ordering and paying for supplies at the RAAM Store. All items will be delivered at the Start in Oceanside. The items available include:

- Route Books
- Vehicle and Media Signage Kits
- Safety Kits (amber flashing lights and slow-moving vehicle triangle)
- Cargo Space Reservations – Cargo transport from Oceanside to Atlantic City. Cargo includes bike boxes, suitcases, duffle bags and car/van seats.



## **Racer Profile**

Racer profiles are important. Racers and their support crews, their friends, family and fans all want to know about the Racers. If you are using RAAM as a platform to raise money for a charitable cause, you want your story told. The public wants to know who the Racers are. The media is hungry for good stories. It all starts with information. That information comes from the racer profiles. Good racer profiles help you, they help the Race, and they help the sport of ultra-bicycle racing.

## **What makes a good Racer Profile**

A good profile should provide the following basic information:

- Racer Name, Team Name, age, gender
- What is your profession? Avocation?
- Why are you racing?
- Are you raising money for a charity? If so, what is the name and purpose?
- What was your path to RAAM?
- What makes you interesting? Why should people follow you?

Your profile should be 100-150 words. We're looking for a compelling reason to tell your story. We have our own media crews covering the race. We are frequently contacted by outside media. We get asked all too frequently, "How come you didn't mention me?" The primary reason is, "You didn't fill out your profile. So, we didn't have anything to say about you."

The information you provide will be published on the website and may be submitted to the media. Your completion and submission of this biography serves as authorization to publish, use and distribute to the media its contents.

RAAM staff reviews all biographical material. We reserve the right to edit material submitted, remove objectionable material and/or request additional information if necessary.

## **Photo Instructions**

Photos are a great means for everyone involved with the race to know who you are.

- Every Racer must submit 1 individual photo.

The following are the guidelines for submitting photos:

- High resolution jpeg image (maximum size is 1MB). Black-and-white or color.
- Full-sized image is acceptable.
- Must be a clear photo on a plain, light-colored background.
- Ability to recognize the person. A picture without a helmet or hat helps for recognition.



The following are examples of good images:



The RAAM Staff will review all photos. If the photos do not meet our guidelines, we will ask you to resubmit photos.

## Racer Numbers

RAAM has a numbering system for categorizing and tracking Racers. There is the possibility of over fifty different age and division classifications. This numbering system helps Officials, Racers, Time Stations and spectators recognize Racer divisions on the road. Race numbers will be assigned the second week of March.

### Solo Numbers

Continuing a tradition that was started with the first race in 1982, all Solo Racers are given a lifetime number. Once they have that number, they use it for all Solo RAAM efforts. It's a grand way to honor their efforts and results.

### Team Numbers

T200 – T299 Two-Person Teams  
T400 – T499 Four-Person Teams  
T800 – T899 Eight-Person Teams

Individual Racers on a Team will have A, B, C & D etc. appended to the Team number as a designation to help identify them. They will be listed on the roster in the Route Book.

## RAAM - Race Divisions

**Race Divisions** are a combination of the following:

- Racer Category
- Age
- Gender
- Bike Type

For Example: Solo 50-59 Male is different from Solo Under 50 Male, etc.



**Racer Categories** are:

- Solo Racers – one Racer racing the entire distance
- 2-Person Team – two Racers sharing the entire distance
- 4-Person Team – up to four Racers sharing the entire distance
- 8-Person Team – between five and eight Racers sharing the entire distance

Note: Tandems are considered one “Racer” in this context. One tandem would be in the Solo Tandem category, two tandems would be in the 2-Person Tandem Team category, etc.

**Age Categories** are as follows:

- Under 50
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-74
- 75-79
- 80+

**Racing Age** is the age each Racer will turn during the calendar year of the race (year of race minus birth year).

Solos: Age is the racing age of the Racer.

Teams: Age is the average racing age of all Team members.

Note: There are no age categories for 8-Person Teams.

**Gender Categories** are as follows:

- Men
- Women
- Mixed - indicates there is at least one male and one female member with the exception of Tandem teams which must have an equal (50/50) number of males and females.

Note: There are no gender categories for 8-Person Teams.

**Bike Type Categories** are as follows:

- Standard (Diamond Frame)
- Tandem
- Recumbents
- Human Powered Vehicles (HPV) (includes Faired Recumbents)
- Handcycle
- Fixed Gear

All members of a Team must ride the same bike type; no mixing bike types.



### **Open Division**

The Open Division is a limited division for Racer combinations beyond those previously listed. This includes handcycles, trikes, combinations of bike types, etc. Invitations to participate in the Open Division are at the discretion of the Race Director and Race Management. A Racer or Team may petition the Race Director for inclusion in the Open Division. The circumstances of the request must generally fall within the infrastructure currently in place.

Consideration will be given to Racers in the Open Division for an earlier start. All Racers in the Open Division must be finished by the standard cut-off time. No racer will be considered an official finisher after the standard cut-off.

An additional fee may be required for Racers or Teams in the Open Division depending on resources necessary to accommodate their entry, e.g. additional officiating.

**RACERS IN THE OPEN DIVISION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PLAQUES OR RECORDS. THERE IS NO PLACING OF RACERS IN THE OPEN DIVISION.**

### **Qualifying – Solos**

Racers wishing to compete in the Solo or Tandem Categories must first qualify in accordance with the guidelines found on the RAAM website.

### **Qualifying – Teams**

There are no qualifying requirements for teams.

## **RAAM - Time, Checkpoints and Finishing Status**

### **Race Time**

RAAM travels across 4 time zones. During the race the official time for reporting and tracking racers will ALWAYS be that of the US Eastern Time Zone, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) in military time (24-hour clock).

### **Start Times**

Start times listed are Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) which is local time in Oceanside, CA.

- **Tuesday, June 16, 2026 12:00pm** – Solo Racers.
- **Saturday, June 20, 2026 12:00pm** – All Teams.

Add 3 hours for Race Time/Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Note: See Time Allowances for older racers.



### Time Allowance

Every Race Division has a time allowance; racers must finish within the allowed time to be considered an official RAAM Finisher or official Team RAAM Finisher.

Solo Men (Under 50 and 50-59) – 288 hours (12 days)

Solo Men 60-69 – 309 hours (12 days 21 hours)

Solo Men 70+ - 317 hours (13 days 5 hours)

Solo Women – 309 hours (12 days 21 hours)

Solo Women 60+ - 317 hours (13 days 5 hours)

Teams – 216 hours (9 days)

2- & 4-Person 80+ Teams – 228 hours (9 days 12 hours)

Note: Time allowances: Solo 60+ Women and 70+ Men will have the option of starting at 5am on the Tuesday start day. If they decline that option and opt to start at noon the cutoff will remain 3pm EDT, Monday, June 29, 2026 and they will not receive the additional 5 hours at the finish. 2- and 4-Person 80+ teams may opt to start on Tuesday with the solo racers. If they decline the option their cutoff will remain the same as all other teams and time will not be added at the finish.

All racers must be at Kennedy Plaza and finished within their allotted time. The course closes at 3pm (EDT), Monday, June 29.

### Intermediate Checkpoints and Time Cutoffs

Racers and Teams must reach two checkpoint Time Stations within the designated time to officially continue with the race. If Racers cannot reach these two checkpoints within the designated allowance, the chances of reaching the next checkpoint or the Finish are significantly diminished. These checkpoints are not equal distances apart.

These checkpoints are not intended to prevent any Racers from doing their best, but must exist to determine the time during which Time Stations will be managed and race coverage is available by Race Officials and Headquarters Staff. Moreover, race organizers believe that RAAM must have criteria for defining the end of the race for each division. Additionally, these rules maintain the integrity of the accomplishment of official RAAM Finishers and official Team RAAM Finishers. Disqualification based on the failure to meet cutoff times is not punitive. Time cutoffs give all Racers something significant to work towards.

### Checkpoint Times for Solo Men Racers

TS	Where	Start Plus X Hrs	Cutoff
15	Durango, CO	Start + 81 Hours	Saturday, June 20, 2026, 12am EDT
35	Mississippi River	Start + 192 Hours	Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 3pm EDT
54	Finish	Start + 288 Hours	Sunday, June 28, 2026, 3pm EDT



### Checkpoint Times for Solo Women and Solo Men (60+) Racers

TS	Where	Start Plus X Hrs	Cutoff
15	Durango, CO	Start + 87 Hours	Saturday, June 20, 2026, 6am EDT
35	Mississippi River	Start + 206 Hours	Thursday, June 25, 2026, 5am EDT
54	Finish	Start + 309 Hours	Monday, June 29, 2026, 12pm EDT

### Checkpoint Times for Teams

TS	Where	Start Plus X Hrs	Cutoff
15	Durango, CO	Start + 61 Hours	Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 4am EDT
35	Mississippi River	Start + 144 Hours	Friday, June 26, 2026, 3pm EDT
54	Finish	Start + 216 Hours	Monday, June 29, 2026, 3pm EDT

Note on Cutoffs: The finish cutoff for Solo Women 60+ and Men 70+ will be 3pm EDT, Monday, June 29, 2026. All other intermediate cutoffs will remain the same. The finish cutoff for Team 80+ will be 3pm EDT, June 29, 2026, should they opt for the early start.

### Time Extensions

If a Racer does not reach the intermediate Time Stations (TS15 and TS35) within the allowed time, the Racer will be disqualified from the race. In the event a Racer is very close to cutoff times, Race Management may grant an extension of time. The finish (TS54-Atlantic City-Kennedy Plaza) is a hard cutoff. You must finish within your allotted time. All racers must be finished by 3pm (EDT), June 29, 2026.

### Oak Creek Canyon Shuttle

All Racers will be shuttled through Sedona and up Oak Creek Canyon – a distance of 20.1 miles. That distance will remain in the total mileage for the Race. A fixed time will be added to each Solo Racer and Team’s time. The fixed time added varies by Division. Following are the fixed times added for each Division:

Division	Time
Solo	+1 hour
2-Person	+53 minutes
4-Person	+41 minutes
8-Person	+28 minutes

### Delaware Memorial Bridge Shuttle

All racers will be shuttled across the Delaware Memorial Bridge - a distance of 4.6 miles. That distance will remain in the total mileage for the Race. There will be no adjustment as the projected differences between the riding and shuttle times are not material.

### Racing Ends at Surf Stadium.

Racers should “soft pedal” to The Board Walk. Racers will be sharing The Board Walk with pedestrian traffic. Racers must pedal VERY SLOWLY along The Board Walk to the Finish. Racers may not pass another Racer or Team after Surf Stadium.



A fixed time will be added to each Solo Racer and Team's time at Surf Stadium. The fixed time added varies by Division. Following are the fixed times added for each Division:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Time</b>
Solo	+10 minutes
2-Person	+7 minutes
4-Person	+6 minutes
8-person	+6 minutes

### **Time Adjustments**

A Time Adjustment may be given in unusual circumstances. One call to Race HQ is sufficient to explain the situation and request a Time Adjustment. HQ will address the request and make a ruling that will be final. HQ will inform the crew chief of the decision. Repeated calls may result in a Penalty. In any case, racers and crew should race as if Time Adjustments do not exist.

### **Time Considerations**

Finish Time is adjusted for the following:

- Staggered start times
- Penalties
- Shuttles
- Any other adjustments made by Race Management.

### **Finishing Status**

To be considered an official RAAM Finisher, the Racer or Team must:

- Solo Racer or Team (at least one Team Member) must cross the finish line;
- Finish within the time allowed for Division, Category and Age Group; and
- Still be eligible to race - not disqualified.

All others who cross the finish line beyond the time allowed have our respect for their accomplishment; however, they will not be given a finish time and will be listed as DNF (did not finish).

### **Winners**

The Racer with the lowest accumulated time is considered the winner. There are overall, Category, Division, Age Group winners. The lowest accumulated time will take into account penalties, credits and staggered start time.

### **Withdrawal**

Participants may elect to withdraw from the Race for any reason, including physical exhaustion, medical, mental, emotional, mechanical, personnel issues, etc. All voluntary withdrawals will be put on a 24-hour hold. Anytime during that period, they may resume



racing. They must do so at the point from which they left the course. However, once the 24-hour period has expired, if they have not resumed racing, they will have given up the right to continue and will be listed as DNF.

## Awards

### **Finisher's Jersey, Medallion and Plaque**

Every Racer who is an official Solo RAAM Finisher or official Team RAAM Finisher will receive a Finisher's jersey, medallion and plaque to mark the completion of their journey. The Finisher's jersey is a collector's item that only a few Racers have the right to wear. Limited to one Finisher's jersey per Racer, no additional jerseys will be made.

### **Division Winners Plaque**

Those who are first in their Division will receive a wall plaque in the shape of the USA. No wall plaques will be given in the open division.

### **Special Awards for Solo Racers:**

*Pete Penseyres Cup* - Fastest Solo Male.

*Seana Hogan Cup* - Fastest Solo Female.

*Rookie of the Year – Male* – Presented to the top-placing Solo Male rookie finisher.

*Rookie of the Year – Female* - Presented to the top-placing Solo Female rookie finisher.

*Jure Robic Award* – Fastest solo racer between Cumberland, MD (TS48) to Hancock (TS49).

*Lanterne Rouge* – Last official solo finisher (male or female).

*King and Queen of the Mountains* – Awards will be given to the strongest climber in the Male and Female Solo Divisions. RAAM management will choose a series of particularly hilly Time Station-to-Time Station segments and the racer with the shortest combined time between those segments will win the Award.

*King and Queen of the Prairies* - Awards will be given to the fastest racer in the Male and Female Solo Divisions. RAAM management will choose a series of generally flat Time Station-to-Time Station segments and the racer with the shortest combined time between those segments will win the Award.

### **Special Awards for Teams:**

*Jim Kennedy Cup* – Presented to the first Team to cross the Finish Line.

*Jim Pitre Corporate Cup* – Presented to the first Corporate Team to cross the Finish line. To qualify 75% of all racers must be current or former employees of the corporation represented. If you have questions regarding eligibility, please contact us.

### **Special Awards for Solos or Teams:**

*Armed Forces Cup* – This award will be given annually to the fastest entry representing the armed forces. The competition is open to Solo, 2-, 4- and 8-person teams. All racers must be current or former members of the armed forces.



**Emergency Services Cup** – This award will be given annually to the fastest entry representing the emergency services. The competition is open to Solo, 2-, 4- and 8-person teams. All racers must be current or former police, fire fighters or emergency medical personnel.

**Lee Mitchell Cup** – Presented to the best crew. Parameters for winning include no penalties, positive feedback from HQ and staff.

**Lon Haldeman Award** - Presented to the Solo Racer or Team who raises the most funds for the charity of their choosing.

NOTE: For all Challenge Cups, there will be no distinction between team size, age, gender, bike type, etc.

## Supplies

### Store

The RAAM Store has all of the Official RAAM Merchandise. The Store has current and past race clothing, DVDs and other official merchandise. We update and add merchandise all of the time. This is the only source for the real stuff!

**Visit us at our online store at [www.raamrace.org/online-store](http://www.raamrace.org/online-store), at the Start line in Oceanside, or the Finish Line in Atlantic City!**

### Race Supplies

#### Race Supply Purchase – RAAM Store

In addition to official RAAM merchandise, the following race supplies are available at the RAAM Store:

- Route Books – Two per vehicle are recommended.
- Vehicle Signage Kits – These are mandatory for every vehicle. If you have more than the allotted number of vehicles (3) you must purchase additional kits.
- Media Signage Kits are mandatory for all media vehicles.
- Safety Kits (Amber flashing roof lights & Slow moving vehicle triangle)

All supplies will be delivered at Check-in.



# Pre-Race & Start Line - Logistics, Planning, Facilities

## Pre-Race & Start Line Location and Facilities

The Pre-Race area is active for one week, from our arrival on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 through the departure of the Teams on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. During that time there are various meetings, photos and more.

Most pre-race activities will take place in Harbor Lot 1, just east of the Oceanside Harbor. The address is 498-100 Riverside Drive, Oceanside, CA 92054 (see map for details). The start will be at the Oceanside Pier is directly west on Mission Ave NW from downtown Oceanside and one block north. The Pier is 1900 feet long – you won't miss it.

The following is a list of Start Line activities and where they will be held.

**Race Office & Check-in:** Harbor Lot 1

**Photos:** Harbor Lot 1

**Store:** Harbor Lot 1

**Cargo Transport Drop-off:** Harbor Lot 1

**Crew Chief and Media Crew Meetings:** Oceanside Public Library (330 N Coast Hwy, Oceanside, CA 92054, near the intersection of North Coast Hwy and Civic Center Dr. (Subject to change.)

**Start Line:** On the Strand just north of the Oceanside Pier.

**Inspections:** All entries will be expected to self-inspect their support vehicles and bicycles using the forms provided in the Clearance to Race Packet. However, race officials will be on-hand in Harbor Lot 1 to answer any questions regarding vehicle signage set-up.

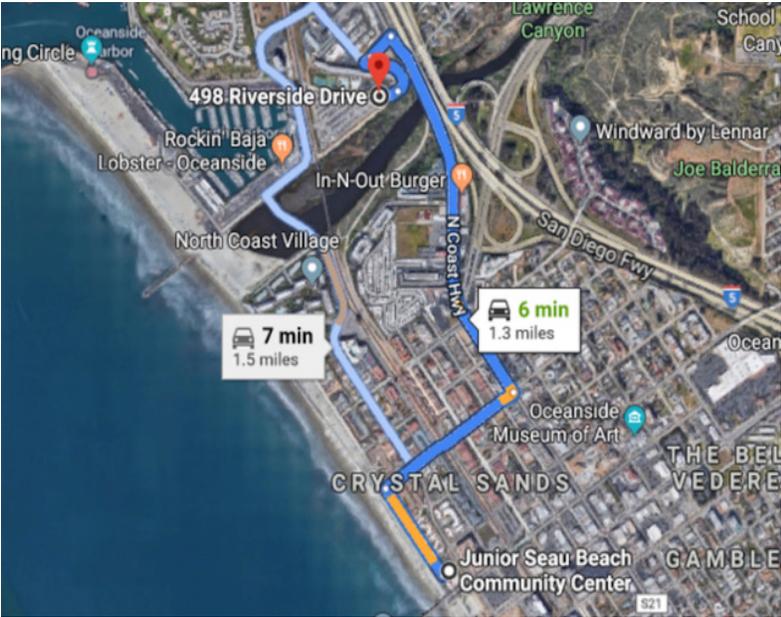
### Directions to Start

The Oceanside Pier is at the intersection of South Pacific Street and Pier View Way. Follow the stairs or Pier Ramp down to beach level. You will see the large Beach Community Building immediately to the north. See maps for details



# Harbor Lot 1 (Check-ins, Racer Photos, RAAM Store)

Harbor Lot 1 is located at 498-100 Riverside Drive, Oceanside, CA 92054



## Mandatory Crew Chief Meetings

There are four scheduled Crew Chief meetings for RAAM racers. These meetings allow Crew Chiefs the opportunity to meet with Race Management and the Head Official to ask any final questions. The Crew Chief or their designee **must attend** one of these meetings. You do not need to sign up beforehand. We will meet in the designated location at the scheduled time.

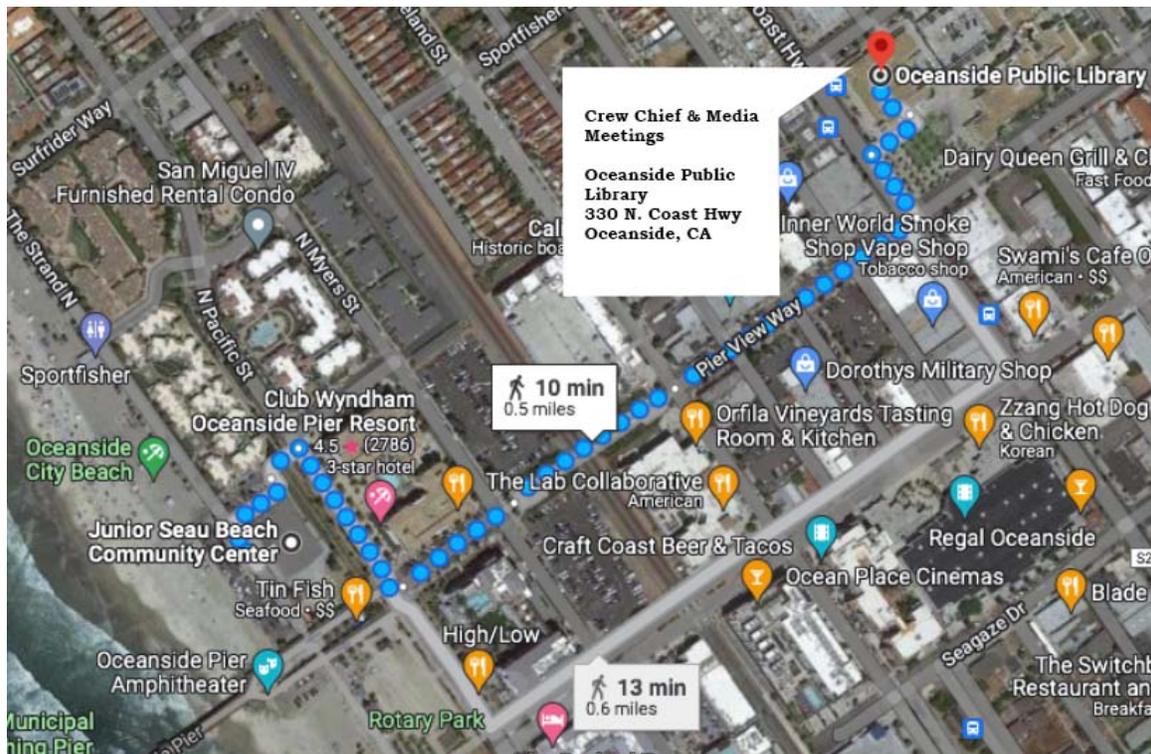
## Racers' Media Meetings

There are two scheduled Racers' Media meetings for those who will solely be providing media coverage for specific RAAM racers or teams. These meetings allow media crew the opportunity to meet with Race Management and the Head Official to ask any final questions. The Racer Media Crew **must attend** one of these meetings. You do not need to sign up beforehand. We will meet in the designated location at the scheduled time.

It is recommended that you bring your Route Book and GEAR Book to the Crew Chief Meeting and Racers' Media Meeting.

## Map to Crew Chief and Media Meetings

For the Crew Chief and Media Meetings, enter the library from the south side.



## Scheduling

**Check-in** is 10 minutes per Solo/Team. The Crew Chief and one crew member should be present. Racers do not need to attend. Race Staff will review all required Race Documents, distribute Race Supplies, and answer any questions.

**Photos** are 10 minutes per Solo/Team. All Racers must be present. The Crew may also be present if you would like photos of Racers and Crew. Racers are highly encouraged to go to the RAAM Store for Finisher Jersey Sizing immediately after their photos are complete.

When you do your online scheduling, you must include your Racer/Team Name.

We will monitor the schedule to ensure everyone is getting scheduled. Do not double-book as that impedes others getting available times. We will remove one of the double-booked entries.

DO NOT SCHEDULE appointments before January 10. All appointments made before January 10 will be removed. All appointments (check-in and photos) must be scheduled in the RRS by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you need to reschedule your appointments after this date, you must contact Race Management to do so.

## Schedule by Activity

### Registration Office (Check-ins/Final Clearance to Race)

Handle all Racer Packet handouts, questions, and review Registration Forms. Issues Final Clearance to Race.

Saturday, June 13	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Sunday, June 14	10:00am – 3:00pm
Monday, June 15	10:00am – 3:00pm
Thursday, June 18	10:00am – 3:00pm
Friday, June 19	9:00am – 3:00pm

### RAAM Store

Purchase all your RAAM merchandise, settle any payments, get your t-shirts/water bottles for your entry and do Finish Jersey sizing.

Sunday, June 14	10:00am – 3:00pm
Monday, June 15	10:00am – 3:00pm
Wednesday, June 17	CLOSED
Thursday, June 18	10:00am – 3:00pm
Friday, June 19	9:00am – 3:00pm



### Photos

Photos of all Racers and Teams. Crews optional. **Show up at your scheduled time or you will be assessed a 1 Hour penalty.**

Sunday, June 14 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Monday, June 15 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Thursday, June 18 10:00am – 2:30pm  
Friday, June 19 9:00am – 2:00pm

### Cargo Dropoff

Drop off cargo for any rented cargo space. You can show up anytime for this.

Sunday, June 14 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Monday, June 15 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Thursday, June 18 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Friday, June 19 10:00am – 12:00pm

### Crew Chief Meetings - MANDATORY

***Note:** The Crew Chief or designee must attend one of these. We recommend more than 1 person attend. The racer(s) do not need to attend. Allow at least 2 hours for this meeting.*

#### RAAM Solos

Sunday, June 14 9:00am – 11:30am (approximately)  
Monday, June 15 9:00am – 11:30am (approximately)

#### RAAM Teams

Thursday, June 18 9:00am – 11:30am (approximately)  
Friday, June 19 9:00am – 11:30am (approximately)

**Racers Will Not Be Allowed To Start The Race If Not In Attendance.**

### Racer Media Meetings Dates/Times - MANDATORY for Racers/Teams with Media Crews

This meeting is for racers/teams with their own independent media. If you are unsure if you need to attend, please contact us. You must show up for your Media Meeting. Bring your Gear Book and Route Book.

RAAM Solos Monday June 15, 11:30am – 12:30pm  
RAAM Teams Friday June 19, 11:30am – 12:30pm

**Racer's Media Will Not Be Allowed To Start The Race If Not In Attendance.**



## Check-In and Clearance to Race Forms

When you arrive at Oceanside, check in at Harbor Lot 1. You must check in and pick up your Racer race packet (which includes all your signage) before your Photos. You must attach all Racer numbers and signs to your vehicles, bicycles and bike helmets **before you receive your final clearance to race**. Check-In and Signage pickup starts Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

### Clearance to Race Forms

Clearance To Race Forms are available to download on the Race Across America website under Race Resources. You **MUST** bring your Clearance To Race Forms to the Start. You must have the Registration Forms complete and signed off to start the race.

The Clearance To Race Forms will include:

- Waivers/Release Forms
- Equipment Inspection Forms
- Vehicle and Bicycle Inspection Forms
- Checklists for all necessary documentation
- Suggestions and typical problems encountered during the Inspections
- Vehicle Insurance Agreement Forms
- Schedule
- Clearance to Race Checklist

All Clearance to Race forms will be available on the website as PDFs under the Race Resources section

## Parking & Driving

### Parking

Parking is available in two large lots on east side of the intersection N Myers Street and Pier View Way. These lots are pay lots. There are also two parking garages – one on N Cleveland Street and Pier View Way and one on S Cleveland Street and Seagaze Drive.

Harbor Lot 1 and Harbor Lot 11 are also a short term parking options.

Note: Because of the large number of entrants and vehicles, we recommend that you apply your vehicle signage at your hotel.

### RVs

It is highly recommended that RVs are not driven into downtown Oceanside. The streets and parking lots are designed for cars, not large RVs. You will have trouble with parking and navigation.



There is plenty of space for RVs in Harbor Lot 1. You will only be allowed to park in the lot while engaged in pre-race activities. You may not leave the RV unattended in this lot.

## Start Line – Staying Energized

Once you get to the Start Line in Oceanside, you still have quite a bit to accomplish before the race begins. Our goal is to make this aspect of your race as easy as possible. At this point, you will have applied all required signage to your vehicle and bikes, photos taken, attend mandatory meetings, your own Team meetings, and received your final clearance to race, etc. Hours pass quickly at the start.

All these activities can quickly drain your energy if you're not careful. To be ready for your start, here are some tips:

- Stay out of the sun as much as possible.
- Stay hydrated – keep drinking.
- Stay rested.
- Don't stand around too long.
- Get in a few short rides, walks, or runs to keep your body energized and the blood moving.

In other words, limit where you spend your time and energy.

While this primarily applies to the Racer, this equally applies to the Crew. The Crew needs to be ready for the race as well.

Note to Crew: It's worthwhile for someone to check on the Racers to ensure they are not expending too much energy.

**Note: No support vehicles will be allowed at the Start Line. Please do not attempt to drive to the Start Line location. The road will be closed to vehicle traffic, and there will be no available parking. Please use one of the available public parking lots above the Oceanside Pier, and racers/crew may ride/walk to the Start Line.**

## The Actual Start – Start to Old Castle Road

The first day of the race is a busy one with special rules and details. This section should help explain the first-day nuances.

### The Start

The designated start times can be found in the section "Schedule by Date/Time." Your Racer(s) needs to be at the Start at least 30 minutes before the actual start time. Prior to the actual start we introduce all the Racers, perform the National Anthem, etc.



### **How the RAAM starts work**

Solo racers are started “time trial” fashion at one-minute intervals. From the Start Line to the point where the bike path emerges onto College Drive is a non-racing “parade start.” Racers must not pass the racer in front of them, unless that racer has a mechanical issue and must stop. Starting order will be checked as racers emerge onto College Drive.

The Team start is a time trial start. All team members may start. From the Start Line to the College Drive is a non-racing “parade start.” The group will be escorted to College Drive.

### **Start Order**

Solo start order is by Racer Number – highest to lowest. All returning overall champions will start last. Team start order will be 2-person, followed by 4-person and 8-person by Race Number – lowest to highest.

### **When can I support my Racers?**

You may begin support at the junction of Camino del Rey and Old Highway 395. To get to this point you must take the Support Vehicle Bypass in the Route Book. Note that the Support Vehicle Bypass is only 16.4 miles long and is NOT on the actual race course.

### **What if my Racer has a mechanical problem?**

Your Racer needs to carry a minimal tool kit until Old Highway 395 – tube, levers, patch kit, pump and tools. The Race will NOT supply neutral support. Officials may stop to help, but they are not obliged to. We also recommend that your Racer carry a cell phone for that first stretch. For Teams, we recommend having more than one Racer on the road during the first 21.7 miles. In case something happens, one Racer can continue on down the road.

If your Racer has a serious mechanical problem that is not fixable by the Racer, your Crew may come back and help the Racer. This has to be very serious – broken crank, broken chain – something that prevents the Racer from actually riding the bike. Should a rider need assistance, notify HQ immediately.

### **Can I drive on the course between the Start and Old Highway 395?**

**NO – Absolutely Not.** You will be penalized. Every year, one or more Crews get on the course and start off the first hour with a penalty. No support vehicles are allowed on the course until Old Highway 395.

### **Where can I pick up my Racers after the parade section?**

At Mance Buchanan Park, 425 College Blvd, Oceanside, CA. This is where the bike path meets College Blvd. This is where the parade section ends and racing begins.



## **First Day – Old Highway 395 to Borrego Springs (TS1)**

During this stretch of racing, there are additional rules and restrictions. These are in place because the road is relatively narrow and:

- There are few adequate and safe pull-offs and shoulders.
- There is still typically heavy Southern California traffic.
- Racers are still very close together.

### **What are the additional rules and restrictions?**

- Be sure to use safe pullouts for exchanges and support. It is important that the area you choose meets the requirements of a safe exchange spot.
- You may park at other SAFE places, including side streets and parking lots.

### **Can I do direct follow support?**

No direct follow support in this section – leapfrog only support until 7:00pm. Beginning at 7:00pm direct follow support is mandatory.

### **How many Support Vehicles can I have?**

Solos are allowed one Support Vehicle in this section. Teams are allowed two Support Vehicles in this section. All other vehicles must take the bypass to Borrego Springs. See the Route Book for the Support Vehicle Bypass to Borrego Springs.

### **Can one of my Support Vehicles be an RV?**

RVs are NOT allowed on this section of the course. No exceptions. RVs must follow the alternate route to Borrego Springs, as listed in the Route Book.

### **Can we do exchanges where we want?**

Yes, exchanges can be made anywhere there is sufficient room to safely pull completely off the road – that means at least 5 feet to the right of the fog line or edge of the travel lane.

### **Can my Media Team be on the course?**

Yes, Racer Media crews may be on the course between Old Highway 395 and Borrego Springs. But, they **MUST NOT IMPEDE THE NORMAL FLOW OF TRAFFIC**. We highly recommend scouting the first 50-100 miles of the course. Racers, crew, officials, etc. are bunched up from the start through Borrego Springs. Pre-drive the route, choose optimal and SAFE locations for photo/video. Look for alternate options, as well. Crews and Officials have the priority in parking. If an Official asks you to move, you must do so. The first miles of the course are not the place to execute u-turns or any other unsafe driving. **DO NOT** cross double yellow lines.



# Race Communications & Headquarters

## Smart Phones and Discord App

Once the race begins, all aspects of the race will be managed by race staff located at Race Headquarters (Race HQ). Race HQ is responsible for recording time station check-ins, along with penalties and time credits, coordinating course detours, dealing with emergencies and other on-course issues.

Race HQ will also have a website, which will include general route information and updates, instructions on how to check-in at time stations, weather information, instructions regarding the GPS Tracker, and information on how to contact Race HQ and use the Discord App. This website will be provided in the month before the race.

Race HQ is the sole source of information and point of contact for racers and crew during the race. It is critical that Racers and Support Crews are able to communicate with Race HQ.

### Smart Phones

Every support vehicle must have a smart phone compatible with either iOS or Android operating systems, featuring capabilities for texting and internet access. Support Vehicles must have a smart phone with a US or Canada-based number. For those without a U.S. phone number, it is mandatory to have WhatsApp installed. HQ will only call international numbers using WhatsApp. Crew chiefs should ensure at least two valid phone numbers are provided during the sign-in process.

### Discord App

Devices must have the Discord App installed. Discord is the official HQ communication tool. Crew Chiefs must ensure that at least one Crew Member on every shift is enrolled in the race Discord server.

### Discord Usage

It is the Support Crew's responsibility to monitor Discord for race announcements on a regular basis and respond to direct messages or calls from Race HQ. Failure to use Discord will not only result in missing critical updates, but it may also result in a penalty.

Note: All information on using Discord and signing into the HQ Discord server will be sent out prior to the race.

### Information Distribution

All official information will come directly from Race HQ via Discord, Race Officials and/or Executive Management. Race HQ will communicate with Racers/Crews through the Discord App. All route updates or changes will be posted on Discord and on the Race



HQ website. It is the Crew's responsibility to monitor Discord for important route updates and changes and to download route instructions as they become available.

# Route & Navigation

## Route and Navigation

The RAAM route is over 3000 miles long. It has been meticulously researched and reviewed to be as accurate as possible so you can have a smooth journey across the country. The route information is ultimately compiled into the RAAM Route Book, which you will receive at the Start. This section will help you prepare for the task of navigating across the country.

## Online Route Information

The Route Book is the master route information. We wait until shortly before the race to print it so that we can include any final route changes. In the meantime, you will find the most current route information available on the website.

The website hosts a large amount of information about the route:

- Time Station locations
- Distance charts
- Maps
- Directions
- Elevation profiles

As changes are made to the route, we will update the website.

You will also find resources for electronic navigation via GPS or mapping software, including hints for use.

You can order Route Books from prior years at the RAAM Store. These will give you an idea of what a Route Book looks like. The 2026 route is essentially the same as 2025. The previous year's Route Book can be used as a means of seeing what some of those sections look like.

**DO NOT BRING ANY PREVIOUS ROUTE BOOKS TO THE RACE AS IT MAY CAUSE YOU CONFUSION DURING THE RACE.**

**THE FINAL PUBLISHED ROUTE BOOK – Handed out at check-in - IS THE MASTER ROUTE**



## Route Book

The core of the Route Book is the route itself. It is arranged by Time Station segments – start to finish. For each Time Station segment you will find a map, elevation profile and detailed directions with turns and landmarks. In addition, you will find the following information in the Route Book:

- **Course Description.**
- **Staff.** We have staff working on the race throughout the year, but as we get close to the race, staffing increases dramatically. There are dozens of race staff and hundreds of Time Station volunteers. We salute all those involved.
- **How to Use.** Instructions on how to use and read the Route Book. The same as is provided in the following pages.
- **Special Instructions.** The Start and Finish have special instructions because they are different. In addition, you will find various sections of the course also have special instructions – interstates, construction, detours, etc.
- **Rules.** A complete copy of the rules will be in the Route Book.
- **Time Stations.** A table of Time Station data including Time Station Number, Elevation, Miles, etc. will be in the Route Book.

## RAAM Navigation

As has been the practice for several years now, the route description will be supplied in two formats. The complete description appears in the Route Book, and this is the one to which all Racers must conform or be found at variance with the rules. In addition, the route is provided in digital form, suitable for GPS-assisted navigation. With this relatively straightforward technological enhancement, navigation errors can be reduced by having the ability to cross-check where you think you are in the Route Book with where you actually are in the real world. Moreover, access to GPS often times is helpful in getting back on course should you become lost.

**Remember: if there is a difference between the electronic and hard copy Route Book descriptions, the Route Book provided at the start always prevails and is the official Route. If in doubt, always follow the Route Book.**

The hardcopy Route Book includes all traditional information: all turns will be unambiguously described; mileage to turns; elevation data and important intermediate roadside milestones are given; distances are recorded in statute terrain miles such as a precisely calibrated odometer or cycle computer will display; annotated Time Station- to-Time Station segment maps will show the course in enough detail so that with the accompanying description extra paper maps should not be needed and an elevation profile in feet of each section will also be supplied.



## Electronic Navigation

Electronic navigation employing mapping software or GPS hardware is a mature technology that is readily available in reliable, low-cost consumer products. Having GPS information available has made navigating race courses much easier. GPS devices continuously report location, indicate upcoming turns, etc.

RAAM will make all necessary race data available in the various formats used by many of the more popular GPS receivers and their associated data installation programs as downloadable files from the RAM website. If contacted in a timely fashion, RAAM management, specifically the Route Designer, will try to provide individual help with selections of equipment and software (by capability, not price or brand) which have been found to be most useful for the unique RAAM task, and how to then prepare it with the proper data.

## Using the Route Book

The primary task of the navigator is to ensure the rider and support crew remain on the route. In that regard, the navigator should check off way-points in the Route Book as they are passed. The navigator monitors upcoming turns. But there is much more to the navigator's job.

The navigator must be aware of what's up ahead – more than simply the next turn. The navigator should work in concert with others, keeping them informed as to what's up ahead. The Route Book provides other information which is helpful in planning ahead. This includes special instructions for upcoming parts of the route – alternative vehicle routes, follow vehicle instructions, finish instructions, etc. Working together they can plan exchanges, stops for food, fuel, natural breaks, sleep, etc. This improves safety, efficiency, and overall performance.

The Route Book is laid out in segments (time station-to-time station). When open to a segment, the map and elevation profile are on the left and the description and other information is on the right. The best approach - the way to maximize efficiency - is to use the Route Book in conjunction with GPS and a smart phone or lap-top computer.





# Sample Directions

This is what a page of directions will look like in the Route Book.

TS 13 to TS 14                      Cortez, CO to Durango, CO  
 Leaving Cortez, the course heads into the heart of the Colorado Rockies--the San Juan Skyway--with two warm-up climbs. Elk warnings return. Generally, wide roads with good shoulders and moderate traffic.

<u>ref</u>	<u>mile</u>	<u>turn</u>	<u>elevation</u>
TS13	0.0	<b>E</b> continue on <b>US 160 E</b>	6175
	0.4	straight TL: SR 145, stay on <b>US 160 E</b>	6180
	3.6	39.8 cross McElmo Creek (again, and for the last time) .. fairgrounds (on right)	6291
	8.7	straight jct US10/Mesa Verde National Park, stay on <b>US 160 E</b> ... 3 mile gradual descent	6963
	11.9	31.6 Mud Creek - Commence climb up Mancos Hill	6643
	14.9	straight stay on <b>US 160 E</b> <not right to Bus US 160>	6947
	16.3	27.1 <u>Mancos</u> .. TL: SR 184	7049
	17.0	26.4 cross Mancos R, <i>caution--Bus US 160 merges from right</i>	7117
	22.0	21.4 Mancos Hill summit, 2 mile descent into Thompson Park	7944
	23.4	20.0 Cottonwood Creek , Thompson Park. Commence climb	7639
	30.7	12.7 Hesperus Hill summit ... ski area (on right)	8414
	32.9	10.6 jct SR 140, stay on <b>US 160 E</b>	8129
	33.7	9.8 begin marked 6% descent	8230
	43.4	0.1 cross Animas R	6472
14A-L	43.4	<b>LEFT</b> TL/T: US550/Camino Del Rio. Large RVs may opt to turn right here and proceed .6 miles directly to the time station where RV support facilities are available.	6474
14B-R	43.6	<b>RIGHT</b> TL: College Dr (First TL on US550)	6488
14C-R	44.3	<b>RIGHT</b> TL: E 8th Ave (Last TL on College Dr in town)	6576
14D-R	44.6	<b>RIGHT</b> T: Santa Rita Dr (Toward Gateway Park)	6532
14E-L	44.8	<b>LEFT</b> TL: US160 E/US550/S Camino Del Rio	6479
TS14	44.8	0.0 TS 14 at Gateway Park - Phone at Visitor's Center	

Arrival time/conf#: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time Station 14: Durango, CO

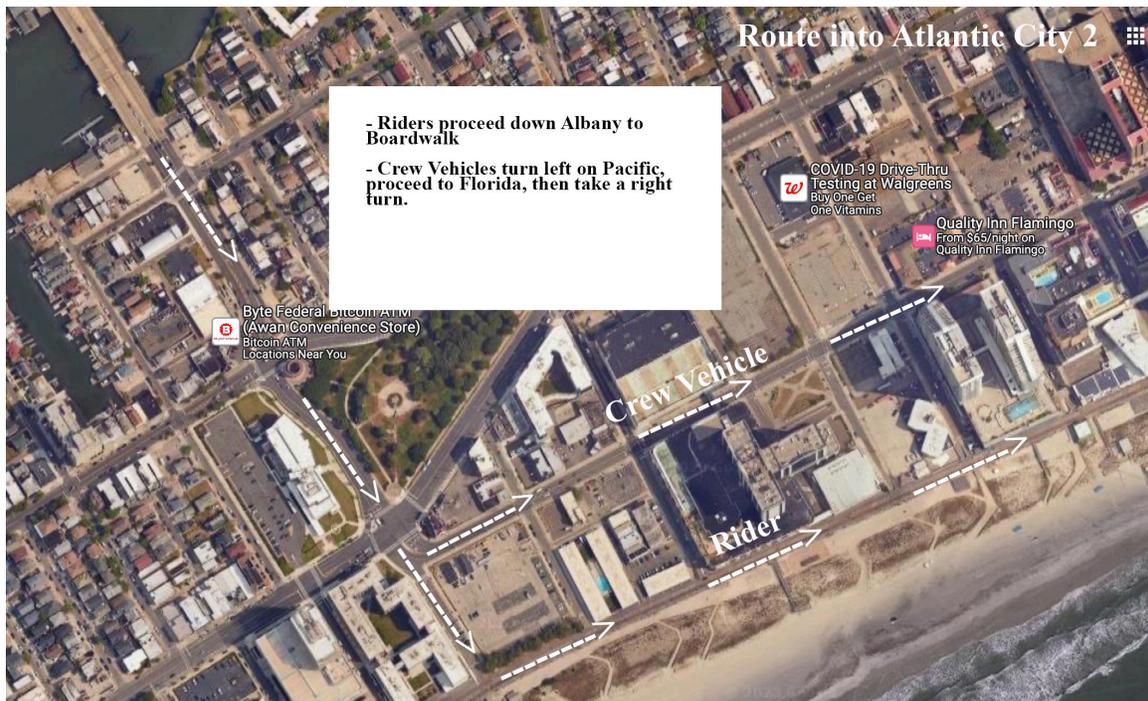
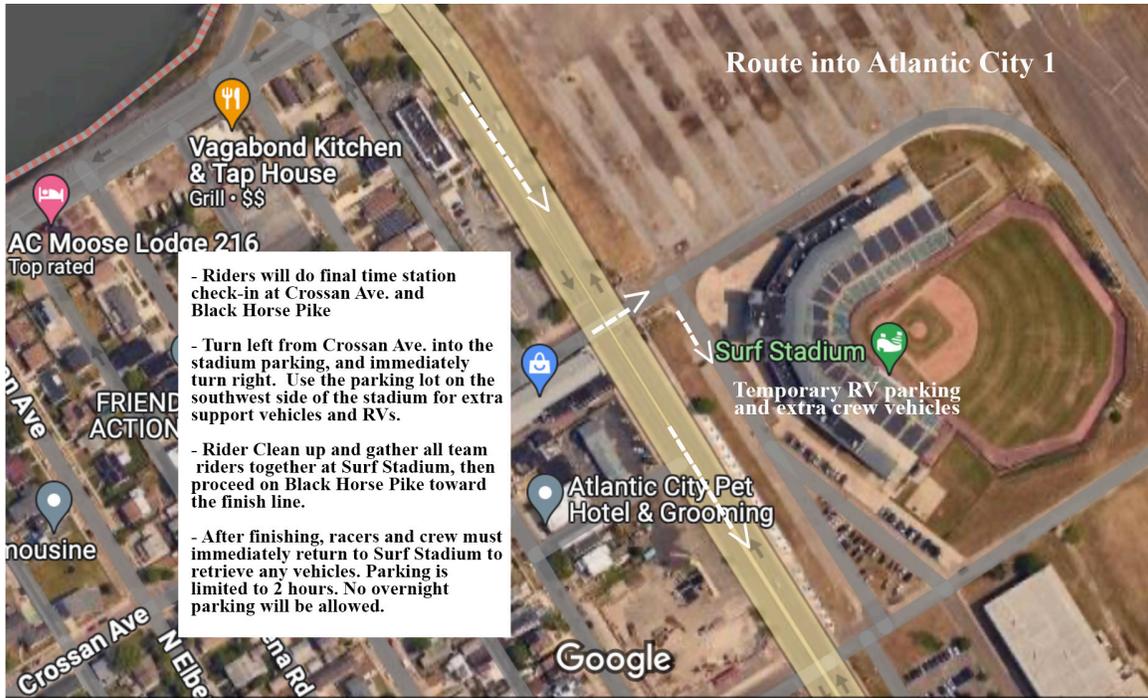
813.1 miles so far: 2,200.3 miles to go

**YOU WILL RECEIVE THE 2026 ROUTE BOOK AT THE START DURING REGISTRATION CHECK-IN.**



# Finish - Logistics, Planning, Facilities

## Map of Finish Line and Facilities





## Finish Line Location and Facilities

Congratulations, after all of the hard work, good times and rough ones, you have made it to Atlantic City. Now that you are nearing the finish line, here's what to expect.

### General Finish Procedure

The timed portion of the race ends at the intersection of US 40/Albany Avenue and Crossan Avenue – the traffic light immediately after the McDonalds. The “Timing Line” is the crosswalk at this intersection. There will be no sprint finishes. You must report your time at this intersection, just as you would at any Time Station. We will add a “fixed time” to everyone's time of arrival at the “Timing Line”. That will be your “Finish Time.” But you must complete the ride to the actual “Finish” on the Boardwalk to be an “Official Finisher.”

### Surf Stadium

Stopping at Surf Stadium is optional. If you are a team and you want to put all your racers out on the road, you should do so at Surf Stadium. If the racer(s) want to change cloths, clean up or otherwise get prepared for the Finish, you should do so at Surf Stadium. **However, racers should do this quickly and proceed to the Finish as soon as possible. Racers and crew should not take excessive time at Surf Stadium, so not to hold up other race finishers.**

The racer(s) should “soft pedal” from the Timing Line or Surf Stadium toward The Boardwalk. Follow vehicles should turn left at Pacific Avenue, following instructions in the Route Book, to Florida Avenue. Follow Vehicles should park along Florida Avenue. Finish Headquarters will be located at the end of Florida Avenue. Support Crew members must walk along The Boardwalk from Florida Avenue to the Finish in Kennedy Plaza.

### The Boardwalk

Here racers will meet a RAAM staff member who will give instructions for proceeding to the Finish. The racers will be held briefly to allow the support crew time to get to Kennedy Plaza for the Finish. Upon release, the racers will proceed slowly along The Boardwalk to Kennedy Plaza– keeping to the right and avoiding pedestrians.

### Kennedy Plaza

When the racer(s) arrive at Kennedy Plaza, photographers will take pictures of racer(s) and crew under the finish banner and then direct the racer(s) to the stage. Racer(s) will receive their Finishers Medal. The emcee will ask a few questions and then invite the crew on stage for more photos.

Kennedy Plaza will be the hub for RAAM finishes. The RAAM Staff will be at the Finish line to greet the racers as they arrive. It will be staffed 24-hours per day to accommodate arriving racers. The Finish Line, inflatable truss, stage and RAAM Store will all be



located in Kennedy Plaza. Kennedy Plaza will be up and operating from Wednesday until Monday afternoon.

### **Race Finish Headquarters**

Race Finish Headquarters will be located at the end of Florida Avenue, adjacent to the Boardwalk. Donations of food, clothing, other sundries, bikes tubes & tires, etc. will be accepted at Race Headquarters on Florida Avenue. Please participate in our donation and recycle programs.

Note: Actual finish area set-up and finishing procedures are subject to final adjustment.

Atlantic City is a shining coastal destination as well as home to America's oldest boardwalk. Investments in recent years have elevated Atlantic City's appeal. Visitors can now enjoy celebrity-chef restaurants, sumptuous spas, family-friendly activities, cultural attractions, casinos, shopping and more.

Welcome to Atlantic City and the Jersey Shore. There are over 5 miles of clean, white, sandy beaches. The world-famous Boardwalk features novelty shops, eateries, amusement parks, volleyball courts, beach bars and more. Atlantic City has always been about entertainment, a must stop location for popular Jersey Shore events – top musical acts in concert, championship boxing matches, celebrity sightings and more. Of course, there are the casinos with exceptional dining and exciting live entertainment. Atlantic City has it all – arts, culture, museums, boating, fishing, watersports. The greater Atlantic City region features championship caliber golf courses. You will find captivating entertainment and events year-round.

**Atlantic City is a great place to celebrate your finish!**

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL RACERS TO COME DOWN AND GREET OTHER ARRIVING RACERS. YOU HAVE ALL WORKED VERY HARD TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL AND IT IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED WHEN WE SHOW SUPPORT FOR EACH OTHER.

