



**PRACTICE / QUALIFYING**

SPECTATOR  
**GUIDE**

# PITS / TURN 1

# FAST FACTS



- ▶ Practice / Qualifying takes place Tuesday (June 16) – Friday (June 19) before Race Day.
- ▶ Practice runs from 5:00am – 8:30am
- ▶ The course is split into 3 sections.
  - 1.** Start Line to Glen Cove
  - 2.** Glen Cove to Devils Playground
  - 3.** Devils Playground to the Summit
- ▶ The competitors are put into pre-determined groups and rotate through all three sections, each getting one day on each section Tuesday – Thursday.
- ▶ Friday is an optional practice day for all competitors.
- ▶ A competitor's qualifying time is their fastest time on the lower section.

No spectator parking will be allowed anywhere along the course. Any vehicles found outside of a designated spectator area without a parking pass will be towed.

# PRACTICE / QUALIFYING

# HOW TO SPECTATE

## PRACTICE DAY TICKETS

- ▶ Scan the QR code or visit this link to purchase tickets:  
[ppihc.org/tickets-camping-permits](https://ppihc.org/tickets-camping-permits)
- ▶ Tickets will not be sold at the Gateway.
- ▶ Tickets are sold by person and by day.
- ▶ Practice days are June 16, 17, 18 and 19.



## GATEWAY INFORMATION

- ▶ Pikes Peak Gateway is open from 4:00am to 5:00am.
- ▶ The Start Line (7 miles past gateway) closes to uphill traffic at 4:45am.
- ▶ If viewing from Devils Playground, arrive at the Gateway at 4:00am.

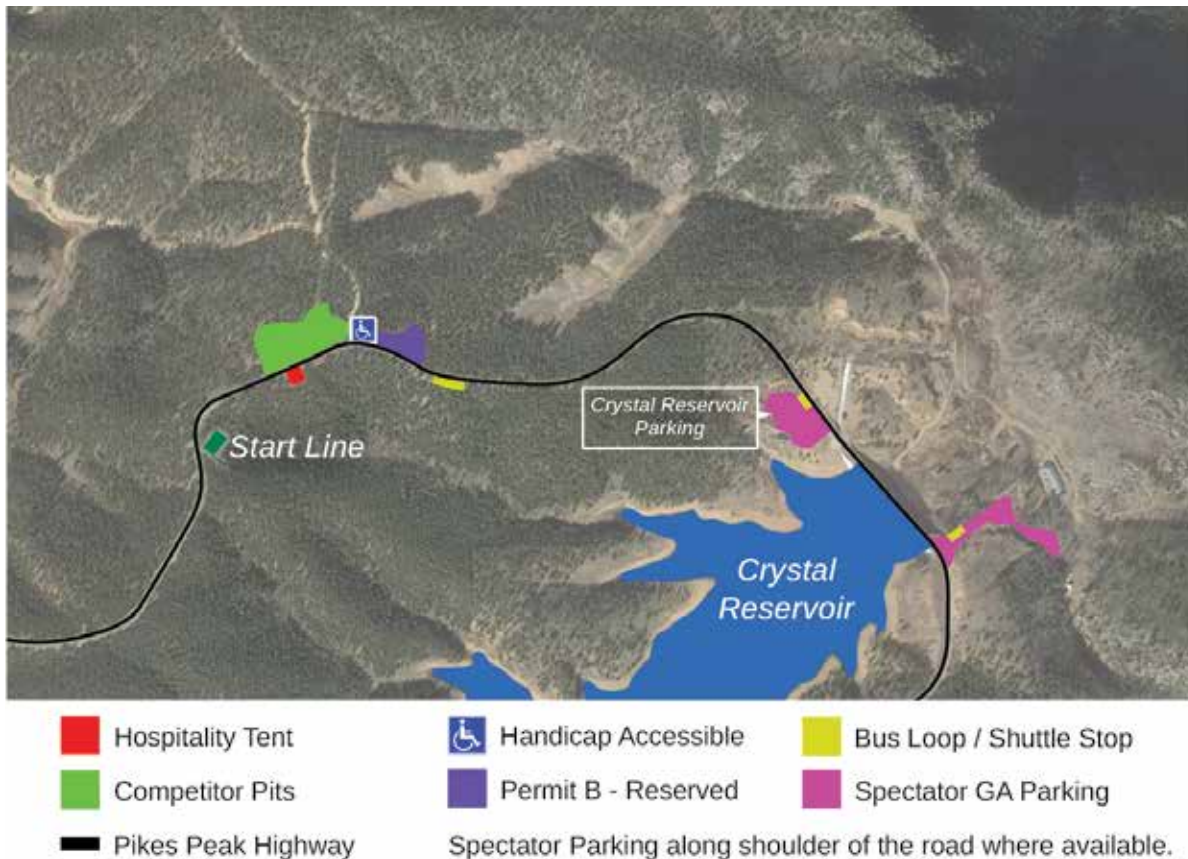
## VIEWING INFORMATION

- ▶ All spectators must watch the race from one of two designated areas, Pits/Turn 1 or Devils Playground.
- ▶ No movement along the course once practice has started.



# PITS / TURN 1 PARKING

## START LINE AREA — SPECTATOR



- ▶ Spectator parking for Pits/Turn 1 viewing is available in Permit B (indicated by purple on the map)
- ▶ Once you pass through the Gateway, you will drive 7 miles before turning into Permit B. This lot is approximately 1 mile after you pass the Crystal Reservoir Dam.
- ▶ Once you see a road to your right, make a right turn, immediately followed by another (a 180 turn)
- ▶ Drive as far back into the dirt lot as possible, to leave parking for other spectators.
- ▶ Do not park in the paved pits or along the highway, this space is reserved for race teams.



# INSIDER TIPS

# PACKING LIST

Expect the unexpected on Pikes Peak. A typical June day can start out very sunny and warm, and turn intensely cold with rain, snow, fog or hail.

## 2026 PPIHC SUGGESTED ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Layers (coats, hats, gloves)
- ☐ Sturdy shoes
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Coolers with food and drink
- ☐ Water (lots of water!)
- ☐ Cash for food and merch vendors
- ☐ Portable AM/FM Radio  
(KRDO 1240 AM)
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Camping chairs
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Umbrella



# RESTRICTIONS & REMINDERS

## RESTRICTIONS



No pets



No off-road vehicles  
(bicycles, dirt bikes, ATV's, etc.)



No open fires



No drones



No firearms



No tree stands or lean-tos



No fireworks

## REMINDERS



We race rain or shine.



Make sure your car is full of gas.



Dress in layers.



Use a low gear on your descent.  
Hot Brakes Fail!



Lightning is common at higher elevations. In the event of lightning or hail, take shelter in your vehicle.



Apply sunscreen frequently.



Drink plenty of water.



Seek help for altitude-related illness.

# SAFETY

- ▶ All spectators must remain behind any fence, or otherwise marked areas that outline the designated viewing areas.
- ▶ Any area marked as **PROHIBITED AREA** is a high danger area.
- ▶ **Do NOT stand within prohibited areas under any circumstance.**
- ▶ Everyone in spectator viewing areas is encouraged to have some sort of barrier protection if possible (rocks, trees, and vehicles etc.). Do not stand or sit where a vehicle might strike you. For those who cannot find barrier protection, it is recommended to enjoy the race from higher ground, if possible, to elevate yourself from the race course.
- ▶ Each spectator is expected to obey requests from PPIHC Race Officials, Staff (including volunteers), Pikes Peak-America's Mountain Park Rangers, US Forest Service, First Responders, and Law Enforcement.
- ▶ The PPIHC is an exciting event for the whole family, but it can be unpredictable. Bring the kids but keep them under close supervision.
- ▶ Stay off and away from hay bales.
- ▶ No movement is allowed between Spectator Viewing Areas.



**View Accident Waiver  
and Release of Liability**

# REMINDER TO SIGN THE SPECTATOR WAIVER

Once you purchase tickets to the event, you  
will be directed to sign the spectator waiver.



Scan the QR code or visit the link  
below to sign the waiver:

**[trackwaiver.com/waiver/pikes-peak](https://trackwaiver.com/waiver/pikes-peak)**

Every person in the vehicle needs to sign the waiver.  
These will be verified at the Gateway.



# REMINDER

# LEAVE NO TRACE

## PRESERVATION

The Pikes Peak International Hill Climb is committed to preserving Pikes Peak's beautiful environment, which has provided a thrilling setting for the Race to the Clouds for 100+ years. We have done everything possible to prevent any negative impact on these spectacular surroundings and encourage spectators to do the same by observing these principles of "Leave No Trace."

## PACK IT IN / PACK IT OUT

Pack It In / Pack It Out: Please clean up your viewing area before you leave. Take your trash with you until you can dispose of it properly. We encourage recycling.

## TREAD LIGHTLY

Avoid fragile vegetation. Keep wildlife wild. Stick to trails. Stay off tundra above timberline. No rock climbing. No trench digging to divert water.



**Comply with all Pikes Peak – America's Mountain and US Forest Service personnel instructions.**

# REMINDER PHOTO POLICY



The PPIHC owns all rights for videos/photos that are taken and/or captured by anyone attending the race, including spectators.

Spectators cannot resell any video/photos without permission from the PPIHC. Please direct inquiries to **[information@ppihc.org](mailto:information@ppihc.org)**.

# GETTING TO PIKES PEAK – AMERICA'S MOUNTAIN

## FROM THE COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT (COS)

**Official Airport of the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb – they're Colorado's small airport. Small means small lines, small walks to gates, and small waits, but big options on flights and routes to major hubs.**



- ▶ Exit the Airport on Milton Proby Parkway/Drennan Road
- ▶ After approximately 4 miles, turn left on South Academy Blvd.
- ▶ In approximately 1.8 miles, merge onto I-25 North and continue for approximately 5.7 miles
- ▶ Take Exit #141 for US-24/West Cimarron St. and continue West on US-24 for about 9.5 miles
- ▶ Turn left onto Fountain Avenue and continue for approximately 0.3 miles
- ▶ Take a slight left to continue onto Pikes Peak Highway

## FROM DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DEN)

- ▶ Exit the airport on Peña Blvd.
- ▶ Take E-470 South (toll road) for about 34 miles
- ▶ Exit onto I-25 Southbound to Colorado Springs
- ▶ In approximately 55 miles, take Exit #141 for US-24/West Cimarron St.
- ▶ Continue West on US-24 for about 9.5 miles
- ▶ Turn left onto Fountain Avenue and continue for approximately 0.3 miles
- ▶ Take a slight left to continue onto Pikes Peak Highway

Scan the QR code for  
Google Maps Directions to  
the Pikes Peak - America's  
Mountain Toll Gate



# PPIHC LINGO

**104TH RUNNING** – The 104th race on Pikes Peak. The race was started in 1916, but no competition was held during WWI and WWII.

**COG RAILWAY** – Historic railway to the summit of Pikes Peak. Open to the public on race day.

**CRYSTAL RESERVOIR** – Shuttle pickup location and visitors center below the Start Line.

**FAN FEST** – Street festival welcoming 35,000 fans on Friday night prior to the race in downtown Colorado Springs.

**FAMILY PACK** – A ticket admitting 2 or more spectators in a single vehicle – family or friends!

**GATEWAY** – Entrance to Pikes Peak – America's Mountain. Tickets will be checked here.

**GEAR DOWN** – Using a low gear when driving down the mountain to keep brakes from failing due to overheating.

**GREEN FLAG** – Signals to the driver they may begin their run.

**KING OF THE MOUNTAIN** – Each year's driver with the overall fastest time.

**LAUNCH AREA** – Starting grid staging prior to taking the green flag.

**OPENING CEREMONIES** – Pre-race driver's meeting, National Anthem, and invocation.

**OPEN FIRES** – A flame without an on/off switch – prohibited on Pikes Peak.

**PARADE OF CHAMPIONS** – Post-race parade of competitors returning from the Summit to the Pit area.

**PPIHC** – Pikes Peak International Hill Climb.

**QUALIFYING** – A competitor's fastest time from the Start Line to Glen Cove, this determines race day run order.

**RACE DIRECTOR** – Directs on-course action on race day.

**ROOKIE** – First time competitor on Pikes Peak / Never taken a green flag.

**RUN ORDER** – The order in which drivers take the green flag on race day.

**SANTA'S WORKSHOP** – Colorado amusement park just below the Gateway.

**START LINE** – Timing each competitor's run begins here.

**SUMMIT / FINISH LINE** – 14,115' top of Pikes Peak, timing ends here.

**SWITCHBACKS / "Ws"** – Tight hairpin turns below Devils Playground.

**TECH INSPECTION** – Pre-race event on the Monday of Race Week, held at the Broadmoor World Arena to certify safety and legality of vehicles.

**TREE LINE** – The elevation in which trees no longer grow, around 11,500 ft. in Colorado.

**WAIVER** – Insurance mandated release of liability.

# THANK YOU

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# GEAR UP FOR RACE DAY

## JUNE 21

We'll see you there!

FOLLOW PPIHC  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@PikesPeakHillClimb



@PPIHC