

Directions to Checkpoints

Race Start - Highway 2

From Duluth go north on I-35 to London Road. Follow London Road until it turns into Hwy 61, take the expressway all the way to Two Harbors, about 20 miles. Go through Two Harbors (less than a mile) to Hwy 2 (Holiday Station), turn left (west) on Hwy 2 and follow that for about 8.5 miles to the Snowmobile State Trail turnoff. Turn right and the start area is down about 2 blocks on the left. Only dog trucks can enter/park in the start area. There is parking for the public along Hwy 2.

Highway 2 to Finland

Drive back down Highway 2 to Two Harbors and turn left (north) on Highway 61 at the light at the Holiday gas station. From this intersection, stay on Highway 61 for approximately 32.9 miles to the town of Ilgen City and turn left onto MN Highway 1 (west) to Finland.

Stay on Highway 1 for approximately 6.2 miles to the small town of Finland and turn right onto Lake CR 7 (not Lake CR 6) – there will be a sign for George H. Crosby Manitou State Park. Stay on CR 7 for approximately 0.8 miles and the checkpoint will be on the right.

Finland to Trail Center

Backtrack down CR7 to Hwy 1 turn left and proceed ½ block to CR 6 turn left on CR6 and follow to Hwy 61 to Little Marais turn left on Hwy 61 and follow to Grand Marais. In Grand Marais follow blue signs to hospital left turn off of 61, about 2 blocks past hospital road will meet CR 12 Gunflint trail turn left and proceed for approx. 30 miles to Trail Center.

Finland to Caribou Mid Distance Checkpoint

Backtrack down CR7 to Hwy 1 turn left and proceed about a block to CR 6 turn left on CR6 and follow it to Hwy 61 Little Marais, turn left on Hwy 61 to Lutsen. About ½ mile past Clearwater store turn left on Caribou Trail CR4, drive 6 miles up CR4, the road narrows at this point and you will see signs for North Shore State Trail parking. Parking for dog trucks will be along the road only.

Caribou to Trail Center at Poplar Lake - Mid Distance Finish

Backtrack down the Caribou Trail to Highway 61 and turn left (north) onto Highway 61 at Lutsen heading to Grand Marais. From this intersection, stay on Highway 61 to the Gunflint Trail (Cook CR 12) – there is a green sign on Highway 61 that says Gunflint Trail with an arrow. Turn left onto the Gunflint Trail (follow the sign for the hospital). [Note: The Gunflint Trail road is in Grand Marais, just before you get to the downtown area.] Stay on the Gunflint Trail for approximately 30 miles to Trail Center at Poplar Lake – this is the checkpoint – it will be on the left side of the road. Hot food and drinks will be available for sale. This is the site of the Mid Distance finish.

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Trail Center to Grand Portage Lodge and Casino

Backtrack down CR 12 to Grand Marais. In Grand Marais on Hwy 61 turn left (north/east) and continue on Hwy 61 up toward Grand Portage, about 36 miles. To Grand Portage Lodge and Casino. There will be race signs on Hwy 61 to watch for.

Grand Portage Lodge and Casino to Skyport Lodge at Devils Track Lake

Backtrack down Hwy 61 to Grand Marais at Gunflint Trail, turn right on Cr 12 and continue on that for about 4 miles to CR 8 turn left onto CR8 4.2 miles to Skyport lodge.

Skyport Lodge at Devils Track to Sawbill

Backtrack down CR 8 to Gunflint Trail turn right and backtrack down to Hwy 61, turn right go back to Tofte. Turn right onto the Sawbill Trail (Cook CR2). Stay on the trail for 5.5 miles to the checkpoint at the intersection of Sawbill and Six Hundred Road.

Sawbill to Finland

Drive back down the Gunflint Trail to Hwy 61, turn right and stay on Hwy 61 for 23.4 miles to the town of Illgen City and turn right onto MN Hwy 1 to Finland. Stay on Hwy 1 for 6.2 miles, turn right onto Lake CR 7 (by the sign for George H. Crosby Manitou State Park) for 0.8 miles. The Finland Area Recreation Building is on the right which is the checkpoint

Finland to Highway 2

Backtrack down CR7 and Hwy 1 back to Hwy 61 and turn right (south) onto Hwy 61. From this intersection, stay on Hwy 61 for approximately 33 miles to Two Harbors. At the first set of stop lights at the Holiday Gas Station turn right on Hwy 2 and go about 8 miles to North Shore Trail Parking Lot. (Snowmobile crossing sign just before entrance to parking lot.)

Highway 2 to Billy's (Finish for Marathon)

Turn left on Hwy 2 for 8.5 miles to traffic lights, turn right onto Hwy 61. Stay on Hwy 61 for 19 miles to 60th Ave E, turn right on 60th Ave E to Glenwood St. Turn left on Glenwood, stay on Glenwood St to Jean Duluth Rd. Turn right on Jean Duluth for 3.0 miles. Billy's is located at the corner of Jean Duluth Road and W. Tischer.