THE
GREATER YELLOWSTONE
ADVENTURE SERIES

These Ain't No Pansy Ass City Races

7th Annual Madison Ultra 50

July 12, 2026

MU
Madison Ultra 50
montana

50K Straight Down

Date and Time of Race

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Starting Times:

Madison Ultra 50 Runners – 7:30 AM from Monument Ridge on top of the Gravelly Range

Race Check In – RACE DAY CHECK IN ONLY

Sunday, July 13, 2025 – 4:00 to 4:30 AM

The Madison Ultra 50 is on a good quality gravel road of which about half is within the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest. The distance from the banks of the Madison River near Varney Bridge to

the very highest point on the Gravelly Range Road on the Gravelly Range is exactly 50 kilometers. This road is the route of the Madison Ultra 50. The starting line is a Monument Ridge and the finish line is Varney Bridge on the Madison River.



RD Sam Korsmoe on the Madison River
The Finish Line for the Madison Ultra 50



Madison Trifecta Champ Corey Hardy on Monument Ridge
The Starting Line of the Madison Ultra 50

The starting line for the Madison Ultra 50 is at 9,587 feet at Monument Ridge on top of the Gravelly Range. The finish line is at Varney Bridge on the banks of the Madison River. The net drop is approximately 6,000 feet over the 50 kilometers. In other words, you're facing one hell of a downhill. There ain't no flat spots in between.

Race Day Logistics

All runners will check in at Varney Bridge on the Madison River. This is about 12 miles outside of Ennis. Athletes should park the vehicles either along the county road or within the Varney Bridge Fishing Access Site. The Madison Ultra 50 runners will be shuttled to the starting line on top of the Gravelly Range from Varney Bridge. They will leave their cars at the fishing access site.

The race day logistics are as follows:

4:00 to 4:30 AM – Runners arrive to Varney Bridge and park in the designated areas within the fishing access site. The parking area is towards the back of the site.

4:00 to 4:30 AM – Runners check in. Cars should be left locked at Varney Bridge. There will be a vehicle for SWAG bags and other gear as needed for along the route.

4:30 AM – Madison Ultra 50 runners board the shuttle vehicle(s) for the ride to their starting line on top of the Gravelly Range.

7:30 AM – Madison Ultra 50 runners start.

1:00 to 2:00 PM – Awards ceremony for the Madison Ultra 50 runners takes place at Varney Bridge. Free beer and lemonade for all! We'll have some fruit and possibly food as well.

Bring your fly rods! The Madison River is 20 feet below the finish line.

Level of Participant Support

The Madison Ultra 50 will be **a limited support race**.

This cannot be emphasized enough. The route will be marked with cones at various intervals with kilometer markers on two facing sides of the cones. At various points along the way (approximately every five kilometers), there will be stand-alone water coolers for runners to get their own water. There are no cups at the water stations so please be sure to bring your own water bottles.

There will be mobile volunteers in different vehicles cruising the route. It is highly likely that the runners will become quite spread out as the race progresses. The mobile volunteers will have Gatorade and first aid kits in their vehicles along with ice and water.

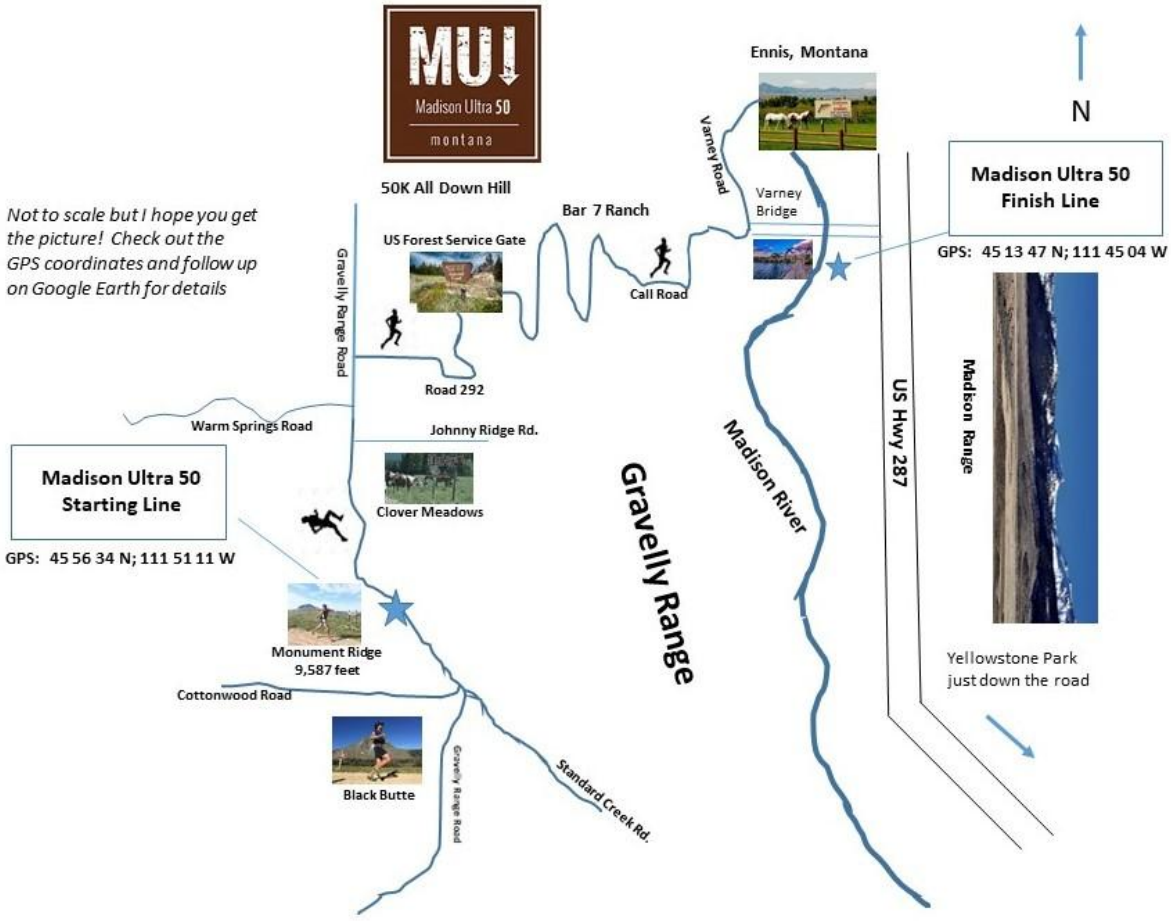
There is very limited cell phone coverage for most of the route. Signals can be picked up in a few areas, but runners should not expect to be able to contact anyone once the race begins. It's simply too remote.

Family and friends of runners are highly encouraged to travel the route to support their loved ones. The two requirements/requests are to drive slowly to keep the dust down and to assist other runners if they are in need. Those who are willing will be provided with aid station supplies to hand out to runners. There are many places along the route that offer superb views of the mountains (and the running route) while also waiting and watching the athletes run.

Cut-off Times

There are officially no cut-off times for any GYAS event. The final call for pulling a runner is at the discretion of the race director. This will be done primarily in the event that the runner is in danger of harming him/herself or they will be running in the dark which is not allowed on National Forest land.

Route Maps


MUI
Madison Ultra 50
montana
50K All Down Hill
Ennis, Montana
N
Varney Road
Varney Bridge
Madison Ultra 50
Finish Line
GPS: 45 13 47 N; 111 45 04 W
Bar 7 Ranch
US Forest Service Gate
Call Road
Not to scale but I hope you get the picture! Check out the GPS coordinates and follow up on Google Earth for details
Gravelly Range Road
Road 292
Warm Springs Road
Johnny Ridge Rd.
Madison Ultra 50
Starting Line
GPS: 45 56 34 N; 111 51 11 W
Clover Meadows
Gravelly Range
Madison River
US Hwy 287
Madison Range
Monument Ridge
9,587 feet
Cottonwood Road
Black Butte
Standard Creek Rd.
Gravelly Range Road
Yellowstone Park
just down the road

Madison County Hotels and Restaurants

The home base for the Greater Yellowstone Adventure Series (GYAS) races is in Ennis, Montana. This is a small town on the Madison River. It is about 50 miles from Bozeman. The drive from Bozeman airport (BZN) to Ennis takes about an hour. Ennis is 70 miles from Yellowstone National Park (the west gate entrance).

Some of the Madison County hotels that we recommend are:

Red Bear Inn – www.redbearinn.com

El Western – www.elwestern.com

Sportman's Lodge – www.sportsmanslodgemt.com

McAllister Inn – www.mcallisterlodging.com

Lure Me Inn – www.luremeinn.com

Rainbow Valley Lodge – www.rainbowvalleylodge.com

Riverside Motel – www.riversidemotel-outfitters.com

Moriah Motel – www.moriahmotel.com

King's Motel – www.kingsmotelllc-mydirectorystay.com

Some of the nicer places to eat and drink include:

G Bar – 305 East Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-5553

Willies Distillery – 312 Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-4117

Alley Bistro – 59 MT Hwy 287, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-5695

Bynee's – 214 Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-3156

The Continental Divide – 47 Geyser Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-7600

Tavern 287 – 129 East Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-7287

Longbranch Saloon – 125 Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-7020

Yesterday's Soda Fountain – 124 Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-4246

The Pic A Nic Basket – 97 North 1st Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-7900

Ennis Sugar High – 170 North Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-7113

Nacho Mamma's Burrito – 111West Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-4006

McAllister Inn Steakhouse – 5566 Highway 287, McAllister Tel: (406) 682-5000

Sportman's Lodge – 310 North Main Street, Ennis Tel: (406) 682-4242

Wells Fargo Steak & Coffee House – 314 West Wallace Street, Virginia City Tel: (406) 843-5556

Mill Creek Inn – 102 Mill Street, Sheridan Tel: (406) 842-5565

The Shovel and Spoon – 108 North Main, Sheridan Tel: (406) 842-7999

The Old Hotel – 101 East 5th Avenue, Twin Bridges Tel: (406) 684-5959

The Shack – 301 North Main, Twin Bridges Tel: (406) 684-5050