



**2023 Piney Hills Classic**  
XCO Class 2, Men / Women Elite, Juniors  
April 29 - 30, 2023





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## Overview

### Welcome

Welcome to the 31<sup>st</sup> Piney Hills Classic, brought to you by Experience Ruston.

### Technical Guide and Conditions of Participation

This technical guide covers the procedures and information needed to participate in the Junior Men/Women and Elite Men/Women XCO races to be held on April 29, 2023.

**⚠ Important: In case of a conflict between the information presented in this technical guide and any other source (other than an official communiqué from the organization or the Commissaires' Panel issued during the event), then the information found in this technical guide shall be taken as correct and final. By participating in this event, you are also agreeing to be bound by this technical guide, the instructions of the Commissaires and the Organization, and by the rules of the UCI.**

### Event Overview

The Piney Hills Classic cross-country event will feature many of the top professional racers from around the region – male and female – some of whom represented their countries in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Taking place in Ruston, Louisiana, the Piney Hills Classic will feature a ~3.9-mile (5.5 km) course, gaining 321 feet of elevation (98m) per lap. The course winds through a mixture of scrub forest and dry grassland with climbs up and down the canyons, which feed the nearby creek.

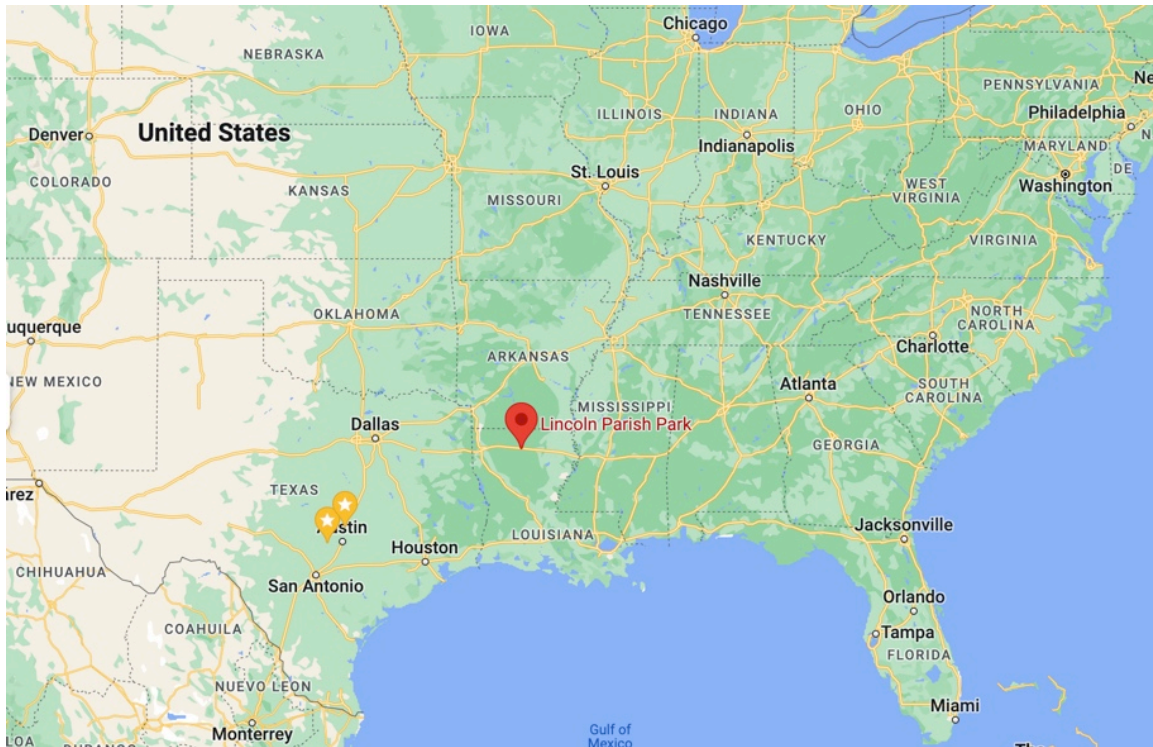
## Sanction and Regulations

The Junior Men/Women and Elite Men/Women XCO events are sanctioned by the International Cycling Union (UCI) as Class 2 XCO races. The UCI Regulations shall apply.

## Location

### Venue Location

Piney Hills Classic take place at Lincoln Parish Park, 211 Parish Park Rd, Ruston, LA 71270. The Piney Hills Classic longest running MTB in the South. The festival takes place in the beautiful Lincoln Parrish Park located in Ruston, Louisiana in the beautiful piney hills of Northern Louisiana. The race and trail earned the distinguished status of “NORBA Classic” over a decade ago. The course includes sweet single-track with epic switchback climbs, technical sections and sustained descents.



### **Nearest Airports**

**The closest airport to Ruston is Monroe Regional Airport (MLU). Distance from Monroe Regional Airport to Ruston is 35.0 miles / 56.4 kilometers.**

1. Monroe Regional Airport (35.0 miles / 56.4 kilometers)
2. South Arkansas Regional Airport at Goodwin Field (49.3 miles / 79.4 kilometers)
3. Shreveport Regional Airport (69.5 miles / 111.8 kilometers)
4. Alexandria International Airport (82.9 miles / 133.4 kilometers)

### **Monroe Regional Airport (MLU)**

Monroe Regional Airport is located approximately 4.8 miles / 7.7 kilometers east of Monroe and about 35.0 miles / 56.4 kilometers east of Ruston. IATA airport code is MLU.

### **South Arkansas Regional Airport at Goodwin Field (ELD)**

Distance from South Arkansas Regional Airport at Goodwin Field to Ruston is 49.3 miles / 79.4 kilometers. South Arkansas Regional Airport at Goodwin Field is located approximately 8.6 miles / 13.8 kilometers west of El Dorado and about 49.3 miles / 79.4 kilometers north of Ruston. IATA airport code is ELD.



### **Shreveport Regional Airport (SHV)**

Distance from Shreveport Regional Airport to Ruston is 69.5 miles / 111.8 kilometers. Shreveport Regional Airport is located approximately 7.0 miles / 11.3 kilometers southwest of Shreveport and about 7.3 miles / 11.7 kilometers southwest of Bossier City. IATA airport code is SHV.

### **Alexandria International Airport (AEX)**

Distance from Alexandria International Airport to Ruston is 82.9 miles / 133.4 kilometers. Alexandria International Airport is located approximately 6.3 miles / 10.1 kilometers west of Alexandria and about 43.6 miles / 70.1 kilometers southeast of Natchitoches. IATA airport code is AEX.

### **Accommodation**

Camping at Lincoln Parish Park: Campgrounds feature RV spots with full hookups including water, sewage, and electricity at each site (\$35 per night) and primitive camping spots with access to electricity and campfires permitted (\$25 per night). Contact the park to make your reservations at 318-251-5156.

Lincoln Parish Park allows leashed pets and offers free Wi-Fi. Visit here for an interactive map of the park and view photos of pavilions located throughout.

Hotels: Access a full list of hotels in Ruston at, <https://www.rustonlincoln.com/hotels-motels>

Explorer Ruston, LA. Check out what's happening in Downtown Ruston at <https://www.rustonlincoln.com/downtown>.

### **Local Transportation**

There is no public transportation in the area where the event is being held. Therefore, if arriving by air, you will need to rent a vehicle.

All major car rental agencies are available at both recommended airports. Advance reservation is strongly recommended.

- National: [www.nationalcar.com](http://www.nationalcar.com)
- Avis: [www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com)
- Budget: [www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com)
- Thrifty: [www.thrifty.com](http://www.thrifty.com)
- Enterprise: [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com)

### **Climate / Weather**

In early March, average daily temperatures are highs of 76° and lows of 52° F (24°C/11°C). The weather is generally sunny and dry. Light rain can happen, but it is the exception rather than the rule.



## Registration Information

### Registration

Advance registration for Junior Men/Women and Elite Men/Women is available online via the event web site, as follows: [www.bikereg.com/pineyhillsclassic](http://www.bikereg.com/pineyhillsclassic). Once at this page, click on the “registration” link.

✪ ***Important: Online registration closes at on 16h00PM April 27, 2023.***

✪ ***Important: No new entries will be accepted on the day of the race, April 29, 2023.***

All riders must attend the registration / package pickup session as per the schedule found below in order to show their 2023 UCI International racing license, pay any outstanding fees, and collect their number plate.

Riders not doing so will not be entered on the start list.

✪ ***Important: As number plates are required in order to train on the course, all riders must first complete the registration process before training. Riders training found training without a number plate may be fined by the Commissaires' Panel.***



## **Licenses**

A 2023 UCI International License issued by a national federation affiliated with the UCI is required in order to enter this event.

## **Medical Insurance**

It is strongly recommended that all riders, team staff and officials whether residing in the United States or not, should purchase medical insurance valid in the United States. Medical fees in the USA can be very expensive; in no case shall the organization be responsible for medical expenses incurred by a participant in the event.

## **Registration Fees**

Men Elite and Women Elite (Class 2 XCO event): is Free of charge \$0 (USD) for the Elite Category and Free of charge \$0 for the Junior Category.

As per the UCI Regulations, the registration fee is waived for members of 2023 UCI Elite teams (endurance only). This will be double-checked against the most recent available version of the UCI Elite Team list at registration.

UCI Elite Teams wishing to register in advance should contact the organization's registration coordinator directly (instead of using the on-line system), as follows.

Mr. Rolando Román, [rolando@mscxproject.org](mailto:rolando@mscxproject.org), 601-720-0297.

## **Invitation Letter Requests**

Riders from some countries may be required to first apply for a visa before traveling to the United States. Visa processing times may vary, so we recommend applying for a visa (if needed) well in advance.

In support of your visa application, the organization would be pleased to send you a letter of invitation for the event. To receive such a letter, please contact: Mr. Rolando Román, [rolando@mscxproject.org](mailto:rolando@mscxproject.org), 601-720-0297.





## Event Schedule

### Friday, April 28, 2023

12h00 – 16h00: Registration / Package Pick-up

12h00 – 16h00: Course Open for Training – Elite Men, Elite Women, Junior Men and Junior Women.

16h00: Team Managers' Meeting

### Saturday, April 29, 2023

06h00: park gates open

🌀 **07h30: Final package pickup deadline for Junior Women XCO**

07h45 – 08h00: Junior Women XCO – Staging / Call-up

**08h00– 9h30 Junior Women XCO Race**

🌀 **09h30: Final package pickup deadline for Junior Men XCO**

09h45 – 10h00: Junior Men XCO – Staging / Call-up

**10h00– 11h30 Junior Men XCO Race**

🌀 **11h30: Final package pickup deadline for Elite Women XCO**

11h45 – 12h00: Elite Women XCO – Staging / Call-up

**12h00– 13h45 Elite Women XCO Race**

🌀 **13h45: Final package pickup deadline for Elite Men XCO**

13h45 – 14h00: Elite Men XCO – Staging / Call-up

**14h00– 15h45 Elite Men XCO Race**

16h45 – 17h15: Junior Women/Men & Elite Women/Men Podium Ceremony

17:30: Celebration with Live Music.

Note: The Piney Hills Classic Class 2 XCO event takes place within a larger amateur Mountain Bike event. Other disciplines presented include XCO races for the category 1, 2 and 3 amateur riders.

While the Elite XCO events are a very important part of the Piney Hills Classic event, we do ask that elite riders respect the schedule above particularly when training on the course so that the other riders present can enjoy their events without interference.

🌀 **Important: Elite riders found training on the course during a race for another category may be disqualified and / or fined by the Commissaires' Panel.**



## Event Procedures

### Staging and Call-up

Staging and call-up will be done as per the current UCI Regulations. That is, call-up will be done based on the most recent UCI ranking.

### Podium Ceremony

The top 5 Junior Men, top 5 Junior Women, top 5 Elite Men and top 5 Elite Women must attend the podium ceremony, properly dressed in their team kit (jersey and shorts).

The podium ceremony for each category will be done as soon as possible following the end of the race for that category (the times mentioned in the event schedule above are approximate). The top 5 riders should attend the podium area within 10 minutes of finishing their race.

### Anti-doping

Given the high level of sanction, it is anticipated that this event will be selected for doping controls. The doping control station will be located within the venue, close to the start / finish area. It will be sign-posted.

While chaperones will be present to notify riders of selection for testing, team managers and riders are still advised that it is always their responsibility to check at the doping control station to see whether or not they are required for testing. Any rider entered in the event may be selected at random for testing – not just those who place on the podium.

All riders selected for testing must bring a piece of government-issued photo identification and their UCI International License with them to present to the Doping Control Officer.

As usual, chaperones will first accompany riders selected for testing to the podium (if they are required there) and then to the doping control station.

### Timing and Results

Electronic event timing will be provided by the organization.

### The 80% Rule

As per the UCI Regulations, the 80% Rule is in effect for both the Junior Women, Junior Men, Men Elite and Women Elite categories. Riders instructed by the Commissaires to withdraw from the race at the 80% Zone must do so.



## The Venue

### Venue Parking Fee

🚗 **Important:** All vehicles entering the park, including those of race participants, must pay day admission rates are \$3 per person fee. This applies both for the practice day and the race day.

### Parking

Day admission rates are \$3 per person. Campgrounds feature RV spots with full hookups including water, sewage, and electricity at each site (\$35 per night) and primitive camping spots with access to electricity and campfires permitted (\$25 per night).

### Team and Vendor Expo Area

Team and Vendor Expo Area is available. Space is limited. If you are interested in booking space in the Expo Area, please contact Mr. Rolando Román, [rolando@mscxproject.org](mailto:rolando@mscxproject.org), 601-720-0297.

### Security

While park staff patrol the venue, be advised that the venue is open during events. Participants are advised to take normal security precautions to prevent theft of equipment and bicycles. The park is closed and gated overnight.

## The Course

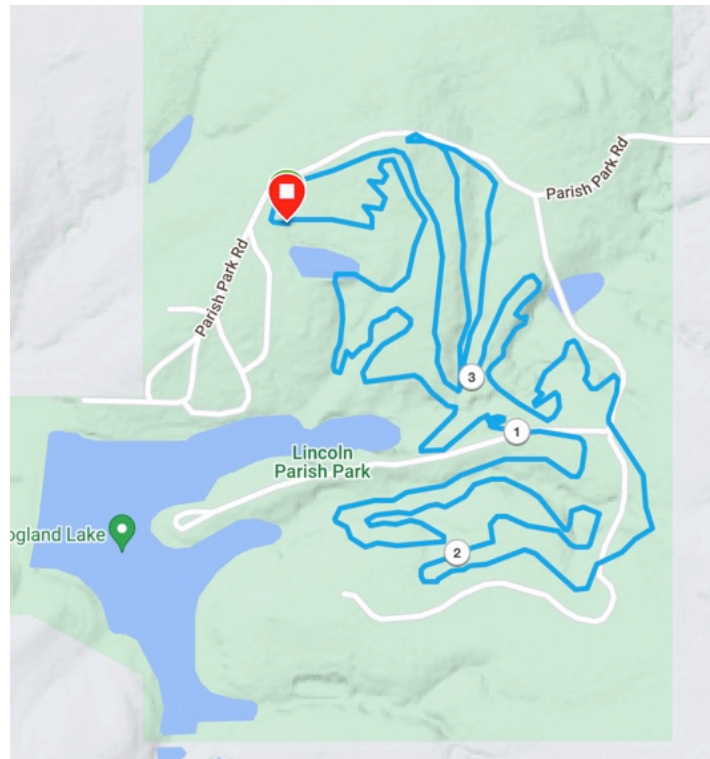
### Course Overview

**Course Length:** ~3.9 miles (6.3 kilometers). Race direction is counter-clockwise.

**Elevation Gain:** 321 feet (98 meters)

**Feed / Technical Assistance Zones:** There are 2. The first is close to the Start / Finish, and the second is approximately 2 miles (3.2 km) after the first.

**Start Loop Description:** The start line is separate from the finish line and leads directly into the start loop. Once completed, the start loop rejoins the main course at the finish line. Only 1 start loop (at the beginning of the race) is done. From this point on, riders will lap through the finish area. Access course map at <https://connect.garmin.com/modern/course/147540092>.





## Prizes

Prize money for the event will be paid in US Dollars, to at least the minimum specified by the UCI Financial Obligations for Class 2 XCO events, as in the table below.

Prize money may be collected from the Race Office following the race.

Prize amounts will be converted from Euros using the UCI's 2023 Euro to US Dollar exchange rate. The conversions in the table below are approximate; at present the UCI's 2023 exchange rate is 1,06 USD per 1 Euro. Per UCI regulations, prize money will be sent out when race and doping results have been verified See charts below or details or visit [UCI website](#).

| Rank          | Elite Men,<br>Euro | Elite Men,<br>USD | Rank | Elite<br>Women,<br>Euro | Elite<br>Women,<br>USD |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1             | € 250.00           | \$264.76          | 1    | € 250.00                | \$264.76               |
| 2             | € 200.00           | \$211.80          | 2    | € 200.00                | \$211.80               |
| 3             | € 150.00           | \$158.85          | 3    | € 150.00                | \$158.85               |
| 4             | € 125.00           | \$132.38          | 4    | € 125.00                | \$132.38               |
| 5             | € 100.00           | \$105.90          | 5    | € 100.00                | \$105.90               |
| 6             | € 90.00            | \$95.31           | 6    | € 90.00                 | \$95.31                |
| 7             | € 80.00            | \$84.72           | 7    | € 80.00                 | \$84.72                |
| 8             | € 70.00            | \$74.13           | 8    | € 70.00                 | \$74.13                |
| 9             | € 60.00            | \$63.54           | 9    | € 60.00                 | \$63.54                |
| 10            | € 50.00            | \$52.95           | 10   | € 50.00                 | \$52.95                |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>€ 1,175.00</b>  | <b>\$1,244.35</b> |      | <b>€ 1,175.00</b>       | <b>\$1,244.35</b>      |

| Rank          | Junior Men,<br>Euro | Junior Men,<br>USD | Rank | Junior<br>Women,<br>Euro | Junior<br>Women,<br>USD |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1             | € 80.00             | \$84.72            | 1    | € 80.00                  | \$84.72                 |
| 2             | € 65.00             | \$68.84            | 2    | € 65.00                  | \$68.84                 |
| 3             | € 50.00             | \$52.95            | 3    | € 50.00                  | \$52.95                 |
| 4             | € 30.00             | \$31.77            | 4    | € 30.00                  | \$31.77                 |
| 5             | € 25.00             | \$26.48            | 5    | € 25.00                  | \$26.48                 |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>€ 250.00</b>     | <b>\$264.76</b>    |      | <b>€ 250.00</b>          | <b>\$264.76</b>         |



## Points Awarded

### UCI Ranking Points

Points for this event will be awarded in the UCI Individual Cross Country ranking for each of Junior Men, Junior Women, Men Elite and Women Elite. The points will be applied to the ranking on the date of the first UCI XCO Ranking update following the event. The points scale for Class 2 XCO events is as follows:

#### Elite Men & Women

| Rank | Points | Rank | Points |
|------|--------|------|--------|
| 1    | 30     | 6    | 8      |
| 2    | 20     | 7    | 6      |
| 3    | 15     | 8    | 4      |
| 4    | 12     | 9    | 2      |
| 5    | 10     | 10   | 1      |

#### Junior Men & Women

| Rank | Points | Rank | Points |
|------|--------|------|--------|
| 1    | 20     | 6    | 10     |
| 2    | 18     | 7    | 8      |
| 3    | 16     | 8    | 6      |
| 4    | 14     | 9    | 4      |
| 5    | 12     | 10   | 2      |

## Emergency Information

In case of an emergency (security risk, fire, accident or injury), assistance can be reached by calling 911 from any mobile phone.

When at the venue, emergency first aid is provided for event participants. First aid will be available near the start / finish area, as well as at various locations around the course.

Again, it is strongly recommended that all participants have medical insurance valid within the United States.



## Nearest Hospital

The nearest hospital is:

Northern Louisiana Medical Center  
401 E Vaughn Ave,  
Ruston, LA 71270  
Tel: (318) 254-2100

## Organization Contact Information

Should you need assistance or further information concerning the event, please contact us as follows:

### Race Director

- Inquiries concerning the course / general organization during the event
- Mr. Rolando Román
  - 601-720-0297.
  - E-mail: [rolando@mscxproject.org](mailto:rolando@mscxproject.org)

### Marketing / Media / Sponsorship Inquiries

- Mr. Rolando Román
  - 601-720-0297.
  - E-mail: [rolando@mscxproject.org](mailto:rolando@mscxproject.org)

### Registration / Visa Letter Inquiries

- Mr. Rolando Román
  - 601-720-0297.
  - E-mail: [rolando@mscxproject.org](mailto:rolando@mscxproject.org)

### Team / Expo Space Bookings / Pro Team Liaison

- Mr. Rolando Román
  - 601-720-0297.
  - E-mail: [rolando@mscxproject.org](mailto:rolando@mscxproject.org)