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MAZDA

WESTERN NICA REGIONALS

2026 EVENT GUIDE

November 14-15
ST GEORGE, UTAH

PHOTO: NEW MEXICO NICA

OFFICIAL DESTINATION SPONSOR

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EVENT GUIDE

This event guide is your go-to resource for the NICA 2026 Western Regional event. Find schedules, venue maps, race-day logistics, and highlights like GRiT rides, adventure courses, and volunteer opportunities: everything you need to plan ahead, stay organized, and make the most of the experience. Keep it handy and focus on what matters most: enjoying the ride.

VENUE & EVENT INFORMATION

Parking, maps, and pit zone details to help you plan your weekend.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE & ACTIVITIES

Comprehensive daily schedules and event highlights, including GRiT, TTC, and Adventure activities.

COURSE & RACING INFORMATION

Course map, pre-ride information, category placements, waves, start times, laps, etc.

REGIONALS EXPO

Expo and partner information, including food and beverage options.

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PARTNERS LAP AFTER LAP



Mazda, NICA, and Trek are proud to share one belief: movement means everything. Catch the Mazda Party Lap Lounge at the NICA Regionals this fall for swag, photo ops, and a chance to win a Trek bike.*

2026 Mazda CX-50 Hybrid Premium Plus with available accessories and options shown. Please remember to properly secure all cargo.

*See Official Rules at Sponsor's Booth (Mazda Party Lap Lounge). No purchase, registration fee, race entry or payment necessary to enter or win. A purchase will not increase your chances of winning. Valid e-mail address required to enter. Void where prohibited.



VENUE & EVENT INFO

Welcome to St. George, Utah!

Welcome to the ultimate MTB arena. Nestled in the heart of St. George, Utah, Desert Color presented by Greater Zion is a brand-new NICA course that delivers pure high-desert mountain biking: a fast, punchy, and visually stunning test of grit, speed, and bike handling.

PHOTO: UTAH NICA

Welcome to St. George, Utah!

St. George makes an amazing weekend getaway, seamlessly blending high-energy outdoor adventure with total relaxation. Besides the NICA racing and festival experience, you can hike the iconic red-rock trails of Snow Canyon State Park, catch a Broadway-caliber performance under the desert stars at Tuacahn Amphitheatre, and unwind with local dining in historic downtown...all wrapped in 300+ days of sunshine.





HIGH SCHOOL UTAH CYCLING LEAGUE™

DID YOU KNOW...

98%

of NICA student-athletes say they will continue to cycle after graduation

Founded in 2012, NICA's Utah league is one of the largest and most competitive youth sports organizations in the state. Utah is NICA's largest single affiliate league, fielding thousands of middle school (6th–8th grade) and high school (9th–12th grade) student-athletes across hundreds of high school and community teams annually. ***Please join us in thanking our host league staff, and volunteers.***

PHOTOS UTAH NICA

VENUE MAP



COMING SOON!

DIRECTIONS & PARKING

Address and Google directions:
Coming soon!

Parking logistics:

- Follow the directions of all on-site parking volunteers, staff and signs.

Beyond the Trails

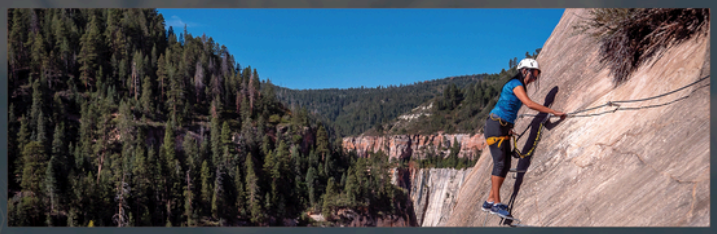
Your bike can take a break. You don't have to.



Hike Snow Canyon State Park



Roam Sand Mountain



Climb canyon walls on a guided via ferrata



Relax at Zion Canyon Hot Springs



Find a great dinner. Sleep well. Then ride again

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Pack the bike. Bring your curiosity.
Leave room for another trip.

Scan here to learn more:

GREATER ZION®
GREATERZION.COM

MAZDA

MAZDA OWNER PREFERRED PARKING

Thank you to Mazda, NICA Western Regionals' official automobile and SUV partner, for hosting preferred parking to Mazda vehicle owners! Space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Follow event parking staff and look for the Mazda signage & flags to access an exclusive parking experience.

RACE PLATE PICKUP

Online registration for all athletes and coaches closes in Pit Zone on October 14th at 11:59 PM and will not be available at the venue. Athletes & coach/family must be present to receive their plate. Race plates will not be distributed to coaches on behalf of students.



Race plate pickup:

- **Friday:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at venue
- **Saturday:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM at venue
- **Sunday:** 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM at venue

Coaches and athletes will pick up race plates at the registration tent

- Athletes & coach/family must be present to receive their plate.
- Race plates will not be distributed to coaches on behalf of students.
- Numbered plates (racing) are allowed on the race course and the adventure course.
- Adventure plates are for the adventure course only.
- Coach plates are for all coaches on both the adventure and race course.

PIT ZONE DETAILS

Please help us be good stewards of our host venue! The rules of Desert Color are outlined below.

Pit Zone drop off times

- Friday – 1:00 AM until 4:00 PM
- Saturday – 8:00 AM until 11:30 AM

Pit Zone pick up

Sunday after racing concludes (anticipated 5:30 PM)

Pit Zone drop-off/pick up rules & regs

- NO vehicle parking in the Pit Zone (unless to drop off)
- NO trailer parking in the Pit Zone (unless to drop off)
- NO open flame in the Pit Zone
- Dogs are not permitted at the venue

Steps for a successful drop-off:

1) Unload Pit Zone equipment as quickly and safely as you can
2) Move your vehicle to a parking spot.
3) Return to the Pit Zone to set up your space

PIT ZONE ASSIGNMENTS

Pit Zone is assigned to your *league*. Check with your league's director or designated representative for the theme of your pit zone, or any other league resources.



We love dogs too, but please leave them home for Western Regionals as they are not permitted at the venue. Thanks for understanding!

LODGING AND CAMPING

GREATER ZION
GREATERZION.COM

NICA Western Regionals Official Destination Partner, **Visit Greater Zion**, has all the details you need for a successful stay in southern Utah.

Check out their website for more information about accomodations.

NICA Western Regionals also offers off-site camping on BLM land just across the border in **Arizona**.
Click here for Google Map location.



WEEKEND SCHEDULE & ACTIVITIES



PHOTO: AARON PUTTCAMP, PENNSYLVANIA NICA



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP FORM

Please consider volunteering your time with us, and we hope you have a blast as you join in helping us get #morekidsonbikes! Please check in at the Volunteer Tent at your specified shift time with any personal items you will need (like your bike and helmet).

Thank you for helping to make this event a success!

PHOTO: WISCONSIN NICA

OFFICIAL WEEKEND SCHEDULE

**The schedule is tentative and subject to change. Check back often for more updates!*

IMPORTANT: All riders/coaches on Pre-Ride, GRiT Ride, and Adventure Course must have their participant/coach plate affixed to their bike. Ride groups must maintain NICA ratios.
Students may NOT ride alone.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th

- 11:00 AM Pit Zone drop-off opens
- 12:00 PM Registration opens
- 1:00 PM Coaches-only pre-ride
- 2:00 PM Pre-ride opens
- 5:00 PM Pit Zone closes
- 5:00 PM Pre-Ride closes

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14th

- 7:00 AM Festival gates open.
- 7:00 AM Registration opens
- 7:00 AM Pit Zone open
- 7:30 AM Race course open for pre-ride: JV2 and JV3 athletes only
- 9:00 AM NICA Skills Zone, TTC Zone & Adventure course open
- 9:00 AM Facilitated Adventure Rides at the Adventure Tent Begin
- 9:00 AM Mazda Party Lap Lounge opens
- 9:15 AM Pre-ride closed to all
- 9:25 AM Staging begins
- **9:40 AM Racing starts for JV3 Boys**
- **10:50 AM Racing starts for JV3 Girls**
- **12:00 PM Racing starts for JV2 Girls**
- **1:20 PM Racing starts for JV2 Boys**
- 1:30 PM Adaptive Race (invite only)
- 2:30 PM Racing concludes (estimated)
- 2:45 PM GRiT Pre-ride
- 4:00 PM Sunday-only pre-ride opens
- 4:00 PM Registration closes
- 4:45 PM NICA Skills Zone, TTC Zone, Adventure, & Pre-Ride Closed
- 5:30 PM Awards for JV3 and JV2 Boys & Girls
- 6:00 PM Festival gates closed
- 6:30 PM Post-Race Party In the Pits with DJ & music

OFFICIAL WEEKEND SCHEDULE continued...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

Staging takes place approximately 15 minutes before the wave starts.

- 7:00 AM Festival Gates Open
- 7:00 AM Registration Opens
- 8:15 AM Staging begins
- 8:00 AM Pancake breakfast with Competitive Cyclist & Hannah Otto
- **8:30 AM Racing starts for JV1 Boys**
- 9:00 AM NICA Skills Zone & Adventure Course Open
- 9:00 AM Mazda Party Lap Lounge opens
- 10:00 AM Cool-down ride with Hannah Otto (adventure course only)
- **11:50 AM Racing Starts for JV1 Girls**
- **1:20 PM Racing Starts for Varsity Girls**
- **2:00 PM Racing Starts for Varsity Boys**
- 2:00 PM Last Call for Adventure Course
- 2:00 PM Cool-down ride with Hannah Otto (adventure course only)
- 3:30 PM NICA Skills Zone & Adventure Closed
- 5:00 PM Racing Concludes (Estimated)
- 5:30 PM Awards Ceremony
- 6:00 PM Expo Closed & Festival Closed (at the conclusion of awards)

TEEN TRAIL CORPS

The Teen Trail Corps program provides NICA student-athletes the opportunity to get involved in trail stewardship efforts and to use their voices to advocate for increased trail access.

The TTC zone is hosted by the Idaho league who collectively volunteer thousands of trail hours to build a community of trail stewards that build relatioships with the local community. Stop by the tent and learn more about how you can get involved in your league.



ADVENTURE COURSE & ACTIVITIES

Not racing? Check out the NICA Adventure Course. Located adjacent to the race course and pitzone area, ride over to the adventure course for a fun ride of challenge by choice. The adventure station is supported by the Arizona league, who kicked off their innagural season with an adventure ride to help build community and fun!



PHOTO: OREGON NICA

GRiT ACTIVITIES

Saturday GRiT Pro Panel – time: TBA
Meet the women shaping the future of cycling and the outdoors! The GRiT Pro Panel brings together women working across the cycling and outdoor industries to share their career journeys, experiences, and advice. Come hear their stories, ask questions, and discover where a love of bikes and the outdoors can take you.

Saturday GRiT Ride – 2:45 PM

NICA GRiT
GIRLS RIDING TOGETHER



PHOTO: NEW MEXICO NICA

NICA SKILLS ZONE

Test your skills with our challenge-by-choice bike obstacle course.
Open Saturday & Sunday 9AM-4PM.

All are welcome to participate (including students who are not yet in 6th grade) with a signed waiver & try-it plate. Grab a Try-it plate at registration and grab your bike!

- Helmet required
- Racing, Adventure, Coach, or Try-It plate **REQUIRED**



PHOTO: AARON PUTTCAMP, PENNSYLVANIA NICA



COURSE & RACING

This course rips.

The NICA Western Regionals course at Desert Color is a fast and flowy rollercoaster of singletrack, punchy climbs, and fun descents. This course is brand new and specifically built for NICA racing! Conquer the course with a triumphant finish—equal parts challenge and pure mountain bike joy.

PHOTO: NEW MEXICO NICA

PRE RIDE

Pre-ride rules & expectations

Official pre-ride times:

Friday

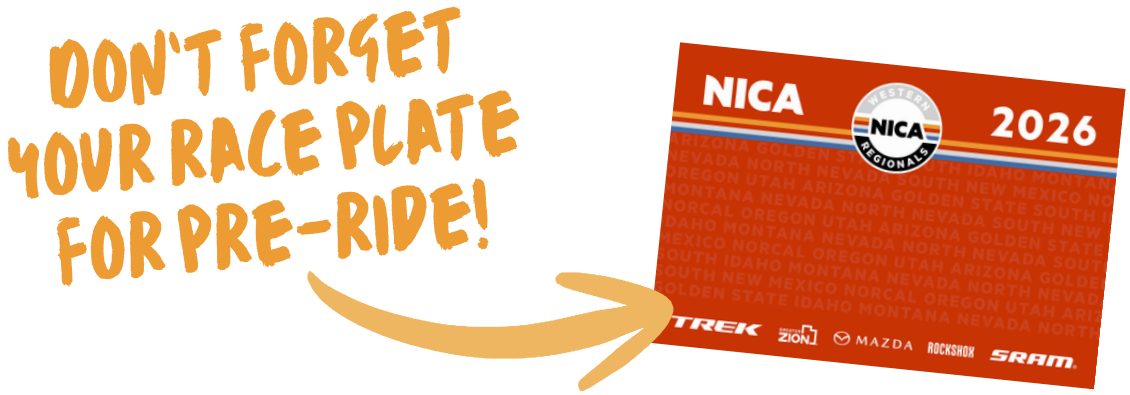
- Coaches only 1-2 PM
- Open pre-ride: 2 - 5 PM

Saturday:

- JV2 and JV3 athletes pre-ride: 7:30 - 9:15 AM
- Sunday athletes only: 4 - 4:45 PM

Additional pre-ride notes:

- Adventure only participants are **not permitted** to pre-ride the race course on the event weekend.
- Coach or number plates must be attached to your bike during pre-ride.
- Pre-ride will have stationary and roving marshals on course to increase safety
- Pre-ride is for course preview, only, and should be ridden at a responsible pace.
- Pre-ride is **NOT** a hot lap.
- Ride groups must proceed with caution and yield to event staff and other park users at all times.



SATURDAY RACING WAVE SCHEDULE

If a rider fails to start the last lap by the designated time, a rider will be pulled off the race course by the race official and scored accordingly. A time and placement will be awarded. This is done in the interest of safety for all athletes.

Wave 1

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
JV3 Boys		9:40 AM	2 Laps	75 min or less		10:25 AM
As needed						
As needed						
As needed						

Wave 2

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
JV3 Girls		10:50 AM	2 Laps	75 min or less		11:35 AM
As needed						
As needed						

SATURDAY RACING WAVE SCHEDULE
CONTINUED...

If a rider fails to start the last lap by the designated time, a rider will be pulled off the race course by the race official and scored accordingly. A time and placement will be awarded. This is done in the interest of safety for all athletes.

Wave 3

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
JV2 Girls		12:00 PM	2 Laps	75 min or less		12:45 PM
As needed						
As needed						
As needed						

Wave 4

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
JV2 Boys		1:20 PM	2 Laps	75 min or less		2:05 PM
As needed						
As needed						

SUNDAY RACING WAVE SCHEDULE

If a rider fails to start the last lap by the designated time, a rider will be pulled off the race course by the race official and scored accordingly. A time and placement will be awarded. This is done in the interest of safety for all athletes.

Wave 1

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
JV1 Boys		8:30 AM	2 Laps	75 min or less		9:40 AM
As needed						
As needed						
As needed						

Wave 2

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
JV1 Boys		10:10 AM	2 Laps	75 min or less		11:20 AM
As needed						
As needed						
As needed						

SUNDAY RACING WAVE SCHEDULE

CONTINUED...

If a rider fails to start the last lap by the designated time, a rider will be pulled off the race course by the race official and scored accordingly. A time and placement will be awarded. This is done in the interest of safety for all athletes.

Wave 3

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
JV1 Girls		11:50 AM	2 Laps	75 min or less		1:10 PM
As needed						
As needed						
As needed						

Wave 4

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
Varsity Girls		1:20 PM	3 Laps	90 min or less		2:30 PM
As needed						
As needed						
As needed						

SUNDAY RACING WAVE SCHEDULE

CONTINUED...

If a rider fails to start the last lap by the designated time, a rider will be pulled off the race course by the race official and scored accordingly. A time and placement will be awarded. This is done in the interest of safety for all athletes.

Wave 5

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
Varsity Boys		2:00 PM	3 Laps	90 min or less		3:10 PM
As needed						
As needed						
As needed						

Wave 6

Category	Staging	Start Time	Laps	Time on Course	Bib Range	Last Lap Start time
Varsity Boys		3:40 PM	3 Laps	90 min or less		4:50 PM
As needed						
As needed						
As needed						

STAGING AND CALL UPS

We appreciate you reading through this critical info before you arrive at the staging area. Thanks in advance for walking your bike, giving fist-bumps and high-fives, and for thanking our hard-working event volunteers!

Each group within a category is scored as split groupings, allowing for all athletes to have a theoretical opportunity to win a category. Each grouping has a maximum of 50 athletes. A grouping within a category will start at 2-minute intervals from the previous grouping.

Call-Ups
Regional call-up positions will be determined by each student-athlete's percentile ranking from their league's season standings. This method ensures the fairest and safest way to integrate racers from multiple leagues and varying skills to the race start.

- Bib numbers are not an indicator of staging position
- Staging takes place 15 minutes before the scheduled category & wave
- Staging will be performed with one hundred percent of athletes being called to the line

Staging
Categories are staged in rows with seven athletes per row, allowing for the maximum number of athletes to be at or near the front row. The call-up league-percentile rankings determine each row. The number of rows is based on category registration.

- Staging volunteers will call athletes to staging by name, race plate number, and league
- Athletes will walk their bike to the staging row
- Athletes will be assigned their starting position from a rider's left to right

Remember that Regionals call ups, staging, and race processes may look different from your home league - and that's OK. NICA leagues all share the same stoke, values, and mission, but may vary in their approach to callups. The process detailed in our event guide has all the info you need to feel prepared.

FEEDZONE

Only league staff and coaches, identified by event lanyards, are permitted in the feed zone. Lanyards are provided by event staff to leagues. Please see your league director for more information. The number of coaches is determined by the number of team athetles competing. See the NICA Regionals handbook for more information.



AWARDS

Individual awards will take place at the conclusion of racing each day.
Spirit of NICA awards take place at the conclusion of the event, on Sunday.

Individual awards

Each category will be awarded 5 places deep on the podium. Each athlete will be awarded a regional event medal. Category winners will be awarded a regional event jersey.

Spirit of NICA awards

A single league will be awarded for demonstrating exceptional spirit in each of the following categories.

- **GRIT Award**
  - Awarded to the league with the highest percentage of girls participating in Adventure and/or Race, relative to the league's total Regional registration
- **Strong Body Award**
  - Awarded to the highest point-scoring league at Regionals. See rule 5.16
- **TTC Award**
  - Awarded to the league with the highest average Teen Trail Corps (TTC) hours per student-athlete over the course of the season.
    - Calculated as: Total TTC hours ÷ total number of league student-athletes.



NICA + USA CYCLING
POINT SHARING INFORMATION

Earn USA Cycling points at NICA Regionals

NICA and USA Cycling (USAC) have partnered to allow NICA student-athletes to earn USAC points at NICA races. NICA will share race results with USAC monthly, giving eligible riders the opportunity to build their USAC points total while racing with their NICA league.

To receive USAC points:

- You must have a current USAC license.
- Your USAC license number must be in your NICA Pit Zone profile *at the time of the race*.
- USAC will not accept points retroactively. Ensure all information is updated before you race.

More opportunities for NICA riders & coaches

The partnership also creates additional opportunities for NICA families and coaches, including USAC educational webinars, college scholarship information, and reciprocal coach education credits. Stay tuned to NICA email and league news for more information.

USA CYCLING

Learn more about USA Cycling

RACING • LICENSES • POINTS

usacycling.org



REGIONAL NICA EVENTS VENDOR EXPO

EXPO & EVENT SPONSORS

If you're not on your bike, the expo is the place to be! Join us for clinics, demos, events, swag, pro-athlete meet-and-greets, and more! Get hyped for the weekend and meet the brands who support youth cycling across the country.

PHOTO: AARON PUTTCAMP, PENNSYLVANIA NICA

MAZDA

MAZDA PARTY LAP LOUNGE

Looking for the best party spot during the races? Check out the **Party Lap Lounge**, where athletes, coaches, and spectators have an up-close view of all the action.

Score some sweet swag for your bike, show your support with temporary tattoos, and capture a memory you won't want to forget at the photo booth.



PHOTO: BIJOU PHOTO: NEVADA NORTH INTERSCHOLASTIC CYCLING LEAGUE

NATIONAL PARTNERS

Thank you to our national partners who help make NICA a success for over 26,000 student athletes and 16,000 coaches across 33 leagues each year!

MAZDA

TREK

SRAM

ROCKSHOX

SPECIALIZED

SHIMANO

View a full list of over 40 NICA corporate, community, and grant partners.

EVENT SPONSORS

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PARTY LAP LOUNGE

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SRAM

ROCKSHOX

VelociRAX

CACHE

CANYON

Backcountry

COMPETITIVE CYCLIST

VOLT

WESTERN
COLORADO UNIVERSITY

gripit 9

WEATHER POLICY

Mountain bike racing is a weather-dependent activity. NICA Regionals staff will evaluate many factors regarding the impact of moisture, temperature, and other environmental conditions on the safety of participants, spectators, staff, and volunteers along with the long-term impact on the trail systems and venue.

Any decisions regarding canceling, postponing, or altering race start times, lap lengths, number of laps, etc. will be made jointly by the director of the host league, land manager(s), the lead course marshal, the course setting crew, and the event director. Often, this decision cannot be made until the morning of the event due to the unpredictable nature of wet or stormy weather, or acts of nature such as lightning, fires, etc.
NICA weather policy

REFUNDS

There are no refunds for registration fees for changes or cancellations made due to weather. Registration fee may not be transferred to subsequent races or events for changes or cancellations made due to weather.

Participation refund
There are no refunds on any registration payments, even if the event is canceled. In the event of a cancellation, the event will use your event payment to cover costs already incurred to support the event or reinvest those funds into future programming.

Event insurance can be purchased upon registration through the BikeReg registration portal.

Regional event refund policy

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Coming soon!

GET STOKED!

We can't wait to see you soon in St. George!

For questions about the event, you can also view our REGIONALS WEBSITE:

NICA REGIONALS

Review the NICA Regionals Handbook rules and guidance:

HANDBOOK

For all other event questions and inquiries, contact us:

EVENTS TEAM



PHOTO: NEW MEXICO NICA