



NICA NATIONAL
INTERSCHOLASTIC
CYCLING ASSOCIATION

How are NICA “regions” defined?

NICA’s eastern and central leagues are broken into the following geographic groups for the 2026 Regional events:

Eastern Region	Central Region	Western Region
- Delaware - Florida - Maryland - North Carolina - New Jersey - New York - Ohio - Pennsylvania - South Carolina - Virginia - West Virginia	- Arkansas - Illinois - Indiana - Kentucky - Kansas - Missouri - Mississippi - Nebraska - Oklahoma - Tennessee - Texas - Wisconsin	- Arizona - Golden State South - Idaho - Montana - Nevada North - Nevada South - New Mexico - NorCal - Oregon - Utah

Who can participate at NICA’s Regional events?

NICA’s Regional events welcome registered NICA athletes in the 2026-2027 academic year to participate in Regional events.

- Racing is open to high school athletes, defined as riders in grades 9-12, in their 2026-2027 academic year.*
- Student-athletes will race in their 2026 race categories.
- Adventure, GRiT, the event expo, and skills areas are open to all practice-ready athletes.

Licensed NICA coaches are also a key part of NICA Regional events!

Based solely on current age/grade level – middle school athletes (in their 2026-2027 academic year) **may not petition up into Regionals categories, regardless of their league category. Please see the [Regionals Handbook](#) for more information.*

How do I register?

Registration

Registration will open in September 1*, 2026 and will be announced to all leagues, coaches, and families. Registration is completed through the [NICA Pit Zone](#). View our step-by-step Registration guides for [riders](#), [coaches](#), and our [bulk team registration](#) option.

***NOTE FOR UTAH PARTICIPANTS:** To allow smaller Western Regionals leagues to have equitable representation at the event, registration opens September 13th, 2026 for UT athletes and coaches.

Why are there no middle school race categories at Regionals?

Middle school athletes are all welcome and encouraged to participate at Regionals, including all expo events, GRiT rides, and Adventure rides/activities! However, there are no racing categories for elementary or middle school athletes at Regional events. As a youth development organization, NICA provides low-pressure exposure to competition via middle-school-aged racing experiences in each of our leagues. Racing at NICA Regionals as a high school athlete is something that competitive-minded athletes can work toward and look forward to as an opportunity for when they reach high school age.

...but what if my league allows middle schoolers to petition into high school race categories?

Regardless of league categories, middle school riders who race in a high school category for their league are not eligible for racing at a Regional event. Riders must be in grades 9-12 in order to race at a Regional event.

You can read more about racing and categories in our [Regionals Handbook](#).

What activities are offered at the Regional event?

Racing

Regionals provide a high-quality racing experience against other NICA athletes and use a tiered varsity system. Categories offered are below and are offered for both boys and girls. Space in each category may be limited depending on the venue.

- JV3: a league's entry-level high school racing category.
- JV2: a league's third highest ranked high school category. *Athletes that are still developing their high school racing experience and may not be ready for more advanced racing.*
- JV1: a league's second-highest-ranked category. *Athletes not yet ready for Varsity.*
- Varsity: a league's highest-ranking high school category.

Race registration will be first-come, first-served.

Racing is open to high school athletes, defined as riders in grades 9-12, in their 2026-2027 academic year. Student-athletes will race in their 2026 season categories.

NICA and participating leagues will publicize registration dates widely via league and national email and social media. See below for more information on staging.

Adventure Course

An adventure course (distance varies by event) will give athletes a challenge-by-choice opportunity. Ride as much as you like and explore trails with old and new friends. Activities and rides vary by event.

GRiT

GRiT activities at the GRiT tent will build inter-league connections to create community and continue our movement to get more girls on bikes! Expect guest speakers, activities, clinics, pre-rides, and moms-on-bike opportunities! Activities vary by event.

Teen Trail Corps

Regional events feature an expo area dedicated to trail advocacy. See how your league ranks in total hours and hours per student-athlete, or learn more about how to be a steward of the trails. Activities vary by event.

Expo activities

An industry-leading collection of NICA supporters are onsite at every Regional event expo, connecting with families and athletes. Activities include clinics, product demos, fun activities, guest speakers, and more. Spend time at the expo to connect with new people from across NICA leagues, meet other cycling enthusiasts, enjoy local food trucks, or purchase merchandise! This is the biggest collection of NICA fun in one place, with activities for all ages. Expo vendors and activities vary by event.

Skills zone

All Regional events feature the raddest skills zone on the planet! Test your bike handling skills and improve your confidence with various features and challenges. Activities vary by event.

Camping

RV and tent camping is available at select regional events. Camping is pre-registration only due to limited availability. This is a great opportunity to hang out with friends and family and not miss a moment of the action.

Where will Regional events take place?

Regional events take place at venues across the country. See below for locations.

Eastern Regionals

2026: Charlottesville, VA

Central Regionals

2026: Fayetteville, Arkansas

Western Regionals

2026: St. George, UT

When will Regional events take place?

- Eastern: October 24 -25, 2026*
- Central: November 7-8, 2026
- Western: November 14-15, 2026

*Rain date (Eastern only) October 31-November 1, 2026

How do I support my closest NICA Regional event?

Volunteer

NICA Regionals are powered by volunteers! Volunteer opportunities will be available and announced in the fall. Opportunities include event setup, tear down, course marshal opportunities and more! Volunteer opportunities will be posted in your region's event guide.

Sponsor the event

NICA needs amazing sponsors and partners to create these unique and unforgettable experiences for athletes and families. [Learn more about being an event sponsor](#) and reach out to our partnerships team today.

How do Regional events fit into NICA's spring and fall league schedules?

The following information applies to 2026 Regional events:

Spring league participants

- Pre-season rules and team training limits apply for spring athletes, as per the NICA Handbook
- Regionals counts as a pre-season event and participating athletes and coaches **must be registered** in Pit Zone before arriving at the event
- Individual student-athletes must be marked as *practice-ready* in the NICA Pit Zone in order to participate or race

Fall leagues

- Regionals will be considered the final league race of the season, and the season will officially end the day after regionals.

Can a rider participate without a coach present from their team?

If athletes are attending, but a team coach is not, leagues will ensure that all athletes have a league-associated coach for coach-led activities like course inspection/pre-rides and adventure rides.

What is the event refund policy?

Weather

- 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 host league director, venue land manager, lead course marshal, and 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.

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

Refunds

- 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 league programming.