

# Norris Area Trail System

April 25, 2026

## Details and Rules

**WHAT:** The Norris Area Trail System (NATS) managing partners are sponsoring a Poker Run to raise funds to contribute to trail construction and maintenance within the trail system. This is a fun, all skills event with a long route and short route options. Awards will be given based on the participant's poker hands not on speed or order of completion. **This is not a race.**

### **Short Route Option – Up to 17 Miles**

Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. Please note that riders are welcome to start on the route after checking in. However, all riders must have started run by 10 a.m.

### **Long Route Option –Up to 25 Miles**

Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m. Please note that riders are welcome to start on the route after checking in. However, all rider must have started the run by 9 a.m.

**When choosing your route, please take into consideration that the trails include 200 to 340 feet elevation changes.**

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 25, 2026  
Alternate Severe Weather Date is May 9, 2026

**WHERE:** All activities will start and end at the Clinch River Brewing. The routes will be in the Norris Watershed, Norris Dam State Park and the City of Norris.

**WHO:** The Managing Partners are the Norris Lake Project Team, Adventure Anderson County, Norris Dam State Park and Explore the Tennessee River Valley

**Participants under the age of 18 must have a release signed by a legal guardian. Participants under the age of 16 must have a release signed by a legal guardian and said legal guardian must accompany the child on the run.**

**REGISTRATION:** Preregister before April 2, 2026 for \$35. If registered on or before April 2<sup>nd</sup>, participants will receive a t-shirt in their requested size and a ticket for a post-run beverage provided by Clinch River Brewing.

Register after April 3, 2026 for \$40. If registered on or after April 3<sup>rd</sup>, participants will receive a t-shirt on a first-come basis as long as supplies last. Participants will receive a ticket for a post-run beverage provided by Clinch River Brewing.

The post-run beverage options include one of two options of beer or bottled soft drinks or water.

A pre-ordered lunch option will be available this year. For an additional \$20, participants may add a boxed lunch to their registration. Lunch will be prepared by Clinch River Brewing and will include your choice of an Italian sandwich or a pimento

cheese croissant, along with chips and a beverage. Boxed lunches will be available for pickup upon your return from the run. Participants who do not pre-order a lunch are welcome to order and purchase food directly from the brewery after they return.

Refunds will not be given. **All Registration will be online.** The registration deadline is Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 6 p.m.

**PROCESS:** At check-in, each participant will be given a form, which will be filled in as participants progress along the route. At each designated stop there will be a deck of playing cards where a run official will draw a random card. The card drawn is recorded on each participant's form by a run official then the card is returned to the deck. The form can only be completed by an official of the run to ensure its authenticity. If a card is drawn that is a duplicate of a card already on the participant's form, it will be replaced in the deck and another playing card will be drawn until an unduplicated card is drawn.

**WINNING HAND:** The winner of the event is the participant who makes the best five-card poker hand at the end of the event determined by standard five card poker hand rankings. If there is a tie, the participants included in the tie will each draw a card from a complete deck and the participant with the highest card will win. The ranking order is spades, hearts, clubs then diamonds. There will be no "wild cards" allowed and each participant will only be allowed one "hand" recorded on an official score sheet. Riders that are participating in the longer route will have the opportunity to pick up two additional cards that they can use to substitute for two previously obtained playing cards.

**DUPLICATE CARD:** If a card is drawn that is a duplicate of a card already on the participant's form, it will be replaced in the deck and another playing card will be drawn until an unduplicated card is drawn.

#### **Poker Hand Rankings (highest to lowest)**

- Royal Flush: Run of sequential cards from Ten to Ace, with all cards of the same suit.
- Straight Flush: Run of sequential cards, all cards in the same unit, but not Ace high.
- Four of a Kind: Four cards of the same rank; e.g. four Aces, Four Kings, etc.
- Full House: Three cards of the same rank plus a pair, e.g. three Aces and a pair of Kings.
- Flush: Five cards all of the same suit.
- Straight (Run): Five sequential cards, not of the same suit.
- Three of a Kind: Three cards of the same rank e.g. three Aces, three Kings etc.
- Two Pair: Two sets of pairs e.g. a pair of Aces and a pair of Kings.
- Pair: Two cards of the same rank e.g. two Aces, two Kings etc.
- High Card: If you have none of the above, then the highest value card in your hand plays.

**Presentation of Awards:** The presentation of awards will be at 1:30 p.m. Please note that you will need to be present to claim your award. **All participants are asked to be back by 1 p.m. so that awards can be given.** Please note that the run start time are flexible this year to accommodate riders that need additional time to complete the run. Therefore, the award presentation will start at 1:30 p.m.

**The top 10 hands will be awarded prizes then names will be drawn for the remaining prizes. You must be present to win.**

**SEVERE WEATHER:** Please note that the event will be delayed from April 25, 2026 to May 9, 2026 if severe weather (meaning thunderstorms with high winds and lightning) is forecasted for April 25, 2026. If the event needs to be delayed to May 9th, registered participants will be notified by Friday, April 24, 2026 via email. There will also be a post on [NATS Facebook Page](#). If there is severe weather forecasted on May 9, 2026, the event will be canceled for 2026 and your registration fee will be considered a donation. Registered participants will be notified of the event cancellation by May 8, 2026 via email and a message will be posted on the [NATS Facebook Page](#). If the event is cancelled, you will receive your free t-shirt, which can be picked up at the Adventure Anderson County. If you purchase the optional lunch and the event is cancelled (not rescheduled), you will receive a \$20 gift certificate to Clinch River Brewing.

**Questions:** If you have any questions prior to the event, please email [info@norrislakeproject.com](mailto:info@norrislakeproject.com) or call 865-659-2829. If you have questions on the day of the event, please call 865-659-2829. Email will not be monitored the day of the event.