

Lagoon Valley Classic Cross Country Invitational

Saturday, September 5th, 2026 @ Lagoon Valley Park, Vacaville, California

It takes a while for new runners to understand that the main idea is not to beat the other fellow. The real competition is against the little voice inside your head that wants you to quit.

-George Sheehan

TRANSPORTATION

- ❖ If you have any health concerns or feel ill, please don't ride on the bus. If you have any flu or COVID symptoms, please do not ride the bus. Most of our team will be on the bus together for almost four hours the day of the meet. Let's show respect for each other and for your team by taking the test. If you test positive or have any cold/flu symptoms, please stay home!
- ❖ Most of us are planning to travel together on a bus. Please be in the bus circle by 5:00 a.m. on Saturday. The bus will leave at 5:15 a.m. EXACTLY. Arriving at 5 a.m. is on time; arriving at 5:15 is late. If you are late, plan on having your parents drive you—we can't wait for stragglers, and we don't know if you are 30 seconds or 30 minutes away.
- ❖ If you ride with us on the bus, your parent must have contributed towards the cost of this year's team budget (this will be discussed at the parent meeting and in an email to all parents). Supporting the team is optional, but if you opt out, we request that you provide your own transportation to the meets. Families can ask for a waiver by emailing Athletic Director Nick Bonacorsi and copying Coach Flatow with a request.
- ❖ If your parents opt to drive you to the race, then the race is held at Lagoon Valley Park in Vacaville, California. Parents driving should use the entrance off of Lagoon Valley Road. Please arrive no later than 7:45 AM—EVERYONE should be there for a cheer circle at 8:00 am before the start of the freshman boys race. (If you intend to earn PE credit, you must support all the races, which means be present at the start and the end of the day—not simply arrive, run your race, then leave.)
- ❖ If you are taking the bus, let your parents know we hope to return between noon and 1 pm.

Note About Race Starts at Lagoon Valley

Race line management at LV is different. The start area is quarantined to only coaches and the athletes in the race that is about to start. You can enter immediately after the prior races begin to claim a good spot in the starting area. So—you NEED to be at the entrance gate a bit early so that as soon as they let us in, you can find a good place on the start line (after watching for years, I feel center-left is the best). This is the same for all of you for all divisions—be there early. You can get some strides in before your race inside the start area. **You and your race group have a lot of personal responsibility for being on time at the start.** Your coaches will be at the start or cheering, and they can't keep track of all of you. In 2021, one group showed up at the start line just before the start; they had no time for strides; they barely got space on the front of the starting line and were ripping off their warmups as the gun went up. Don't let that be you!

3 Things to Focus on at Lagoon Valley

1. **Cheering for your Teammates—especially the freshmen:** One of my favorite MVXC traditions is for our first race of the year; EVERYONE on the team comes to the starting line for the first freshman race and we scream our cheer together as a team! We want all our runners and coaches at the starting line entrance no later than **7:45 am** for a cheer as a team before the first race. We will all crowd around the racers and cheer together! After your race, warm down, but do your warm-down where you can cheer. When you have finished your post-race warm-down, please do not sit around the camp looking at your phone; go out on the course and cheer—just like you hope that your teammates cheer for you! Don't all be in one place; grab a friend or two so that groups of purple are all over the course (some people in the hills is nice)! **SUPPORTING YOUR TEAMMATES MATTERS.**
2. **Warm Up:** Warm up with the other people in your race. Give yourself and your group plenty of time to warm up, drill, do your leg swings, and have your strides done five or ten minutes before the race starts. Be on the starting line well before it's time to go, make sure you have your bib on and your racing flats on, check that your shoes are double knotted, and you are set to race. Most high school runners don't warm up enough because they believe need to save their energy for the race. That belief is false—you need a good warm up for a 20 minute race! You want your core temperature elevated, your muscles loose and primed with blood vessels wide open, so you are ready to race when the gun goes off. (At the same time...if it is pretty warm already, I'd think about ditching my pants and/or jacket and maybe warming up in a long-sleeved shirt. Warmed up, but not dripping sweat before starting to race!)
3. **Gratitude and Respect:** We would not be able to have races without volunteers, and it takes just a little attention from you to remember to say 'thank you for being here' to people. **Everyone should thank at least one volunteer at every meet we attend** (and why not two volunteers?). Be specific and sincere as you thank the volunteers—the better the thank you, the more impact it has, and the process will make you feel good, too. To your competition, say good luck at the start and 'well done, good finish, could not have done this without you' to the athletes in front of you and behind you at the finish; your competitors are a gift to you, helping you find the best inside yourself. In past years, sometimes the boys would turn around after the finish chute and high-five everyone who finished behind them and say, *WELL DONE*—that is a good look for Monta Vista and makes the entire team proud! You can't always control your race results; you can control how you express gratitude and appreciation. A guaranteed win for you on race day!

SOME OVERALL THOUGHTS—PLANNING YOUR WEEK

- ❖ We are going to wake up early on Saturday morning. So, plan your weekly school commitments to get plenty of sleep on **Thursday** night. If you get a whole night's sleep on Thursday, you will have a head start on sleep prep for Saturday. Get ahead on your homework in the front half of the week, so Thursday and Friday are good sleep nights.
- ❖ Let your parents know in advance what you would like to eat for **breakfast on Saturday** morning and what you want to pack for lunch. It's not fair to your parents to get home on Friday night and say, 'I want a whole wheat bagel and a banana tomorrow morning' if you didn't give them time to shop.
- ❖ Pack your race bag on Thursday night so you don't lose sleep running around on Friday night looking for a particular shirt (see below about what you should have in your bag).

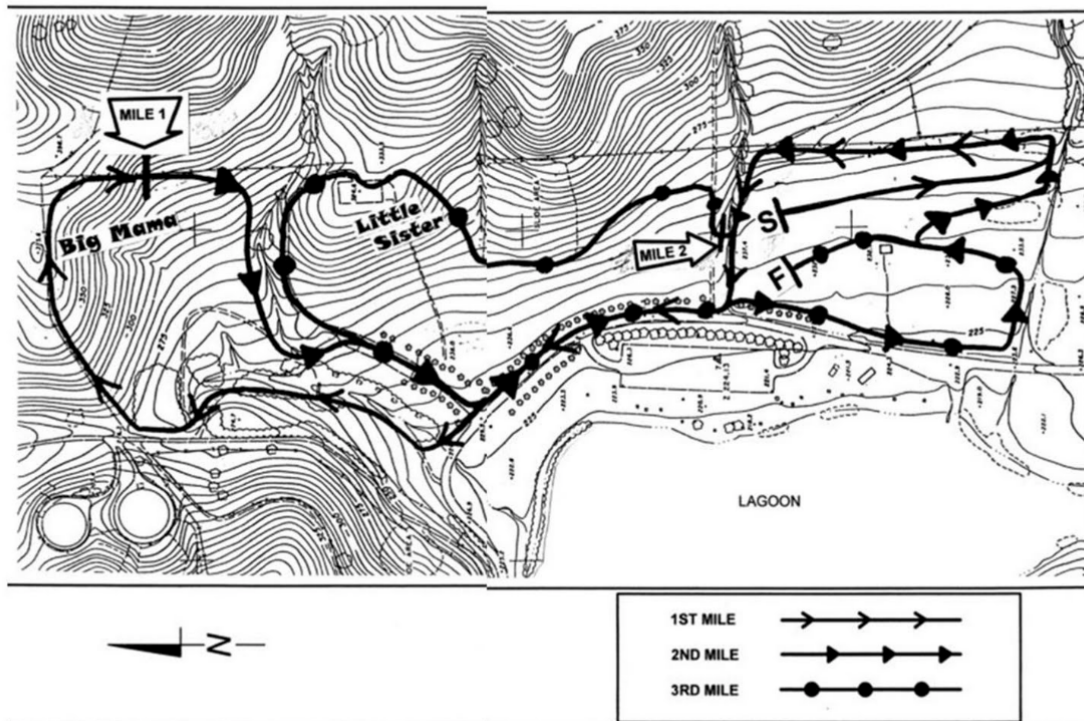
NOTES

- ❖ Let's have every sweatshirt and every t-shirt have MV or MVXC on it! All purple. Even your gym shirt is better than an Arsenal jersey, Stanford shirt, Raiders gear...show your spirit!
- ❖ Things you need: Pack your uniform, a dry **MV** shirt for after your race, breakfast, snacks for after the race and/or lunch, some money for a meet t-shirt, race shoes if you run in flats, dry socks, a roll of toilet paper, any personal medicines or inhalers, a water bottle... and whatever else you need.
- ❖ Get to bed early and have a good night of sleep! We are leaving early-early-early!
- ❖ Have a good breakfast! Check to see when you will be racing and plan your breakfast accordingly. You will probably eat on the bus, so figure out what works for you. You don't want a stuffed-full stomach, but you don't want to be hungry. Before a morning race, I like to have an almond butter and honey sandwich, a banana, and maybe some orange juice two to three hours before race time, but that's me—you might copy what I do, or else figure out what works well for you! (Think about what you eat before our morning practices.)
- ❖ Assume that we will have a warm morning, but check the weather. Have a glass of water when you wake up and sip water throughout the morning (but **please** use the toilet before you are on the bus; we will be driving without stopping for almost two hours!).
- ❖ You may want to buy a T-shirt—most athletes do get a T-shirt at invitationals. The shirts are \$30 each...buy early before sizes (especially smalls) run out! (And save your bib and put it on your wall! Ask the coach about what people have done with their race bibs.)
- ❖ **Before the race:** Warm up as teams. Check out the finish and **find your sprint point!** Course maps are at the end of this meet sheet; don't worry if the map is confusing. Usually, the course makes sense once you are there and can look around and see the trails.
- ❖ **After the race:**
 - Cheer for your teammates! Don't just sit around the camp; yell for your friends and running partners! Be near the start for big cheers.
 - Fair warning: Your coaches will be annoyed if you hang around camp after racing.
- ❖ You can bring some homework for the ride back or downtime at the race. **However, we do not want to see anyone hanging around the camp with homework or games or anything while your teammates are racing.** If you have finished racing, go cheer for your teammates!
- ❖ **Remember: Say good luck to your teammates and competitors, thank you to your drivers, and say thank you to at least one of the race officials!**

RACE SCHEDULE AND WHO-RUNS-WHAT

Please remember that race assignments are **subject to change**. If you want to be moved around, ask, it may be possible.
Remember to warm up with plenty of time! Pay attention to the schedule. Cheer for your teammates!

Race	Division		Start	MV Runners
Middle Sch			8:00	Not our race
Freshman Boys	All	2 mile	8:12	Callen, Peter, Max, Rohan, Daniel, Rishabh, Takumi, Aditya, Agastya, Ethan, Shawn, Gary, Harry (all our freshman boys)
Frosh/Soph Girls	All	2 mile	8:14	Zeynep, Victoria, Eva, Caroline, Jolena, Sophia, Fiona, Katherine, Rachel, Yoyo
Frosh/Soph Boys	All	2 mile	8:36	Fahad, Shouki, Raguram, Jiwoo, Sihoon, Jayden, Jimin, (Oliver), Soma, Aditya, Aadit, Eli, Leon (all our sophomore boys)
Varsity Boys	Lrge Sch	3 mile	8:56	Not our race
Varsity Girls	SmallSch	3 mile	8:58	Miranda, Naomi, Kaitlyn, Myra, Taylor, AlexQ, Medha, Vishakha, Melinda
Varsity Boys	SmallSch	3 mile	9:26	Akshat, Jonah, Constantine, Tarun, Sam, Kento, Ritik, Aiden W
Varsity Girls	Lrge Sch	3 mile	9:28	Not our race
JV Boys	All	2 mile	9:58	Aidan C-K, Kavyansh, Vikram, Aric, Advait
JV Girls	All	2 mile	10:00	Luna, Alex P
Coach's race			10:15	

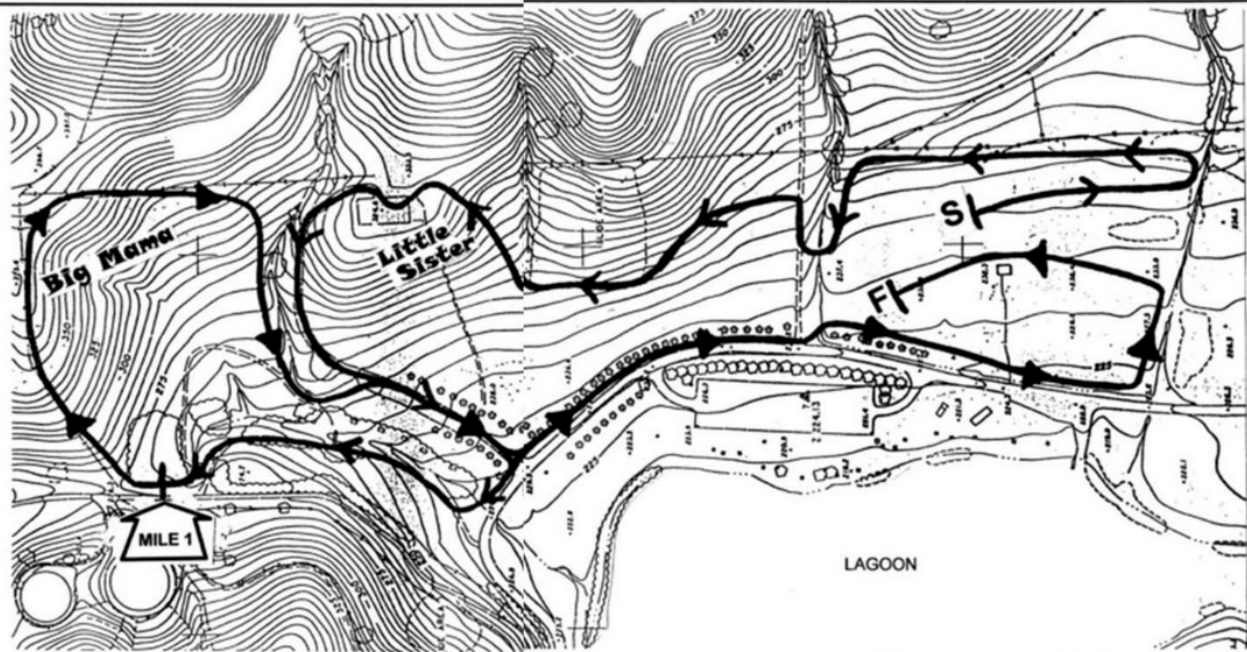


2 Mile Course Map

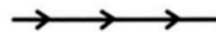
Two Mile Course Tour:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjCM4HDzQpw>

FROSH-SOPH / JV 2 MILE COURSE



1ST MILE



2ND MILE

