

RIDER

GUIDE

OCTOBER 9-10



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO

SPONSORS



DOWNTOWN

Welcome to the Opal Wapoo Gravel Experience!

We're so glad you're here! Whether this is your first Opal Wapoo or you're coming back for another adventure, thank you for choosing to ride local, independent, original gravel.

This event means a lot to us. It brings together people who love a good challenge, a little adventure, and the amazing connections that happen along the way. It also gives us the chance to welcome you to Excelsior Springs and share our community that we're proud of.

Behind every mile is a group of volunteers, sponsors, and partners who have put their time, energy, and heart into making this experience possible. Seeing you at the starting line makes all the work worthwhile. Your participation helps us keep building an event with its own personality and a strong connection to the place and people behind it.

Whatever distance you've chosen, we hope you find something to celebrate out there... take in the views, snap a selfie, and enjoy the chance to ride our singletrack. A portion of the race proceeds supports its development, so you're helping us build more places to ride.

While you're here, we hope you'll spend a little time in Downtown Excelsior Springs. Grab a meal, explore our shops, and meet the local business owners who help make our place in this big world so special. We'd love for your visit to extend beyond the finish line.

Ride safely, look out for one another, thank a volunteer, and most importantly... enjoy the experience. We're grateful you chose to spend your day with us.

Welcome to Downtown Excelsior Springs! Let's ride!



Executive Director
Downtown Excelsior Partnership, Inc.
VisitExcelsior.com

ORIGINS

OPAL WAPOO GRAVEL

The name Opal Wapoo is drawn from historical and fictional accounts surrounding the discovery of the healing waters that would become the origins of Excelsior Springs.

Excelsior Springs is a small town once known as America's "Haven of Health" for its mineral waters, grand hotels, and bathhouses. Some remains of this history, but much has been lost to the ages.

Opal Wapoo was founded in 2018, inspired by a trip to Spearfish, South Dakota to compete in a gravel race. Stacey and Phil noticed the buzz around town and the camaraderie of race participants and fans. Phillip and Stacey Scherer knew right away they wanted to bring a gravel race to their small town of Excelsior Springs. Excelsior Springs was the perfect place. They had a hunch that the challenging terrain surrounding Excelsior Springs would be perfect for a gravel race. The pair would soon ask friend and cycling enthusiast Ben to help see the vision through. Opal Wapoo quickly became well known in the Kansas City area, and a "must-do" gravel event for gravel enthusiasts near and far.

PARKING

Please park in designated parking areas highlighted in yellow. Please avoid parking on Broadway. Saturdays are the busiest day for our downtown merchant friends, and we want to leave parking for their customers.



SCHEDULE

OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Packet Pickup: 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM at Other Trails Coffee and Goods (115E Broadway, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Packet Pickup: 6:00 AM - 7:45 AM at the race/start finish (circle drive of the Hall of Waters - located at the intersection of Main Street and Spring Street in downtown Excelsior Springs. This is located behind Other Trails Coffee and Goods)

Rider Meeting: 7:45 AM

Wapoo 85-mile Start: 8:00 AM

Opal 45-mile Start: 8:30 AM

Baby Poo 20-mile Start: 8:45 AM

Finish Line Beer & Food: Starting at 11:00 AM

Awards Ceremony: After the 3rd podium finisher completes their race

Timing Cutoff: 6:00 PM

RIDER

RULES & DETAILS

Excelsior Springs, Downtown Excelsior Partnership, Inc., race organizers, sponsors and all parties contributing to this event are in no way responsible for your SAFETY, transport or rescue! You are responsible for you!

All riders are required to sign a waiver prior to the race.

Riders Under 18

- Riders 14 & under must be accompanied by an adult or legal guardian.
- Riders 15-17 may ride unaccompanied,.
- A physical waiver with the legal guardian's signature must be provided to Opal Wapoo prior to the race start.

SUPPORT CREWS

It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you have a support crew or person. Your crew can meet you at the designated aid station (Shamrock Hills Winery). Your support team is only allowed on the course for the purpose of picking you up should you not be able to complete the race, resulting in a DNF.

The course travels through remote areas where there is not always cell reception. We will have a sweep vehicle out on the course throughout the day. If you abandon the race please attempt to do so at an aid station. If this is not possible and you do not have crew you may call 913-475-8958 as a last resort. Be advised that you may have to wait extended periods of time for transport to arrive.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

- Please call 911.
- Ray County Ambulance District (816-470-3030)
- Excelsior Springs Hospital (816-630-6081)
 - 1700 Rainbow Blvd, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
- Ray County Memorial Hospital (816-470-5432)
 - 904 Wollard Blvd, Richmond, MO 64085

RIDER

RULES & DETAILS

TIPS FOR A SAFE RIDE

- Ride right! The roads you will be riding are hilly and curvy. It is imperative that riders stay on the right side of the road.
- Chasing dogs are a reality on rural country roads. Be prepared to outride them, squirt them with some water, throw rocks or have an air horn handy
- This course crosses railroad tracks. Never! challenge a train and look before you cross tracks.
- Always keep your eyes up the road for oncoming traffic.
- Good nutrition and hydration are essential and should not be taken lightly. Fuel early and often.
- Earbuds or headphones are **STRONGLY** discouraged. Riders must be able to listen for approaching traffic
- When tackling steep descents ride within yourself. Some descents may have washboards, ruts and deep gravel.

Each participant must carry with them each item on this list:

- All riders are required to wear a helmet.
- A cell phone to contact someone should you need help
- A GPS device or a method to navigate the course. The course will not be marked.
- A blinking light for visibility if needed
- Tire/tube replacement/repair tools and inflation device
- Minimum of 2-3 water bottles are required. A hydration pack is highly recommended. Riders should be prepared to carry enough water to cover 40 miles.

The **BEST** result is a **SAFE** finish. Under no circumstances should a rider take unnecessary risk or violate a traffic law to gain a competitive advantage.

Roads will remain open to vehicle traffic. Please exercise caution and obey traffic laws. No special precautions or road closures will be executed for this event.

RIDER

RULES & DETAILS

Race Start:

The start will begin with a neutral roll out. Please do not pass the leadout vehicle until it has pulled aside and waved riders through.

Navigation

Be prepared to navigate with a GPS enabled device with a map and/or turn by turn directions. THE ROUTES WILL NOT BE MARKED. Marking routes presents the opportunity to compromise the entire event in the event someone tampers with markers or signs.

Best Bike to ride?

We recommend a gravel specific or a bike equipped with 32mm or larger tires.

Off Course?

If you make a wrong turn you must return to your previous position without making any forward progress. Any shortcut of the course will result in a DNF. If you decide to cut your ride short you must report DNF to a race official.

Opal Wapoo is a rain or shine event, although Race Organizers reserve the right to alter the course and/or postpone or re-schedule the race if certain inclement weather conditions prohibits the race from being held.

We hate rules, but implore every rider to compete on the merits of their abilities.

No e-bikes. All bikes must be 100% human powered. *We will make exceptions in some cases for active riders with physical disabilities. Please contact us at opalwapoo@gmail.com

TIMING

GUIDE



PROPER PLACEMENT OF YOUR BIB IS VITAL TO ENSURE YOUR CHIP READS WHEN CROSSING MATS. SEE ABOVE EXAMPLES

THERE WILL BE A TIMING MAT LOCATED AT THE SINGLETRACK ENTRANCE. DO NOT CROSS THIS MAT IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO RIDE THE SINGLETRACK SECTION. SEE MORE DETAILS ON THE SINGLE TRACK PAGE.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FINISH AND CHOOSE TO ABANDON THE RACE, PLEASE REPORT YOUR NUMBER TO THE TIMING OFFICAL OR A RACE VOLUNTEER.

ROUTES

Baby Poo 20-mile:

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/52291263?via=M0LJrb1ZcVgdyTzc757b6g>

- Aid Station: Mile 10, located at Shamrock Hills Winery
 - Voice over Route Reviews-
<https://www.loom.com/share/80c38142209646d4b244984f66b8e9f8>
-

Opal 45-mile:

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/56346604?via=0bETCFaYxkUiqbpb5V6oQ>

- Aid Station 1: Mile 20
 - Aid Station 2: Mile 29.5, located at Shamrock Hills Winery
 - Voice over route review-
<https://www.loom.com/share/cedaf8c983ee43748ce3a12f1ece3aac>
-

Wapoo 85-mile:

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/57158019?via=mFHg0Cu3v6QJF4OJ4WALeg>

- Aid Station 1: Mile 19.5
 - Aid Station 2: Mile 61
 - Aid Station 3: Mile 70, located at Shamrock Hills Winery
 - Voice over route review-
<https://www.loom.com/share/c34ce193648b46a180b06a6d6e8bb6a6>
-

Notables

- Aid stations will be stocked with water, Skratch Labs drink mix, Skratch Labs chews and various snacks and mini cokes
- Bacon & honey station located at the Shamrock Hills Winery aid station
- There will be a porta potty located at the Shamrock Hills Winery aid station
- Rider Crew may meet their rider at the Shamrock Hills Winery aid station. Please access the Winery by traveling south on Shoemaker Road from 10 Highway to avoid traffic on the race route
- Surprise photo opportunity at the 1st aid station (Opal 45-mile) / 2nd aid station (Wapoo 85-mile)

SINGLETRACK & WINERY PATH

Proceeds from Opal Wapoo registrations are contributed to Urban Trail Co. UTC is a Kansas City based trail organization whose volunteer community builds and maintains over 200 miles of singlettrack. These funds have directly impacted the construction of the trails you will ride on race day. As you roll down the trail, know that you made this possible.

On race day, you will navigate 1.5 miles (if dry) of flowy singlettrack. Expect to encounter some tight turns, roots and rocks. The back half of the trail will climb back to the road. The trail is not overly technical, but is considered a blue rated challenging trail.

Riders on the Baby Poo 20-mile distance may opt to ride the singlettrack, but it may impact your placing with added time. The Baby Poo official course does not include the singlettrack.

Riders of the Opal 45-mile and Wapoo 85-mile may opt out of riding the singlettrack. Making this choice will deem you ineligible for a podium and your placing will be moved below all others who complete the trail. This will be monitored by a timing mat.

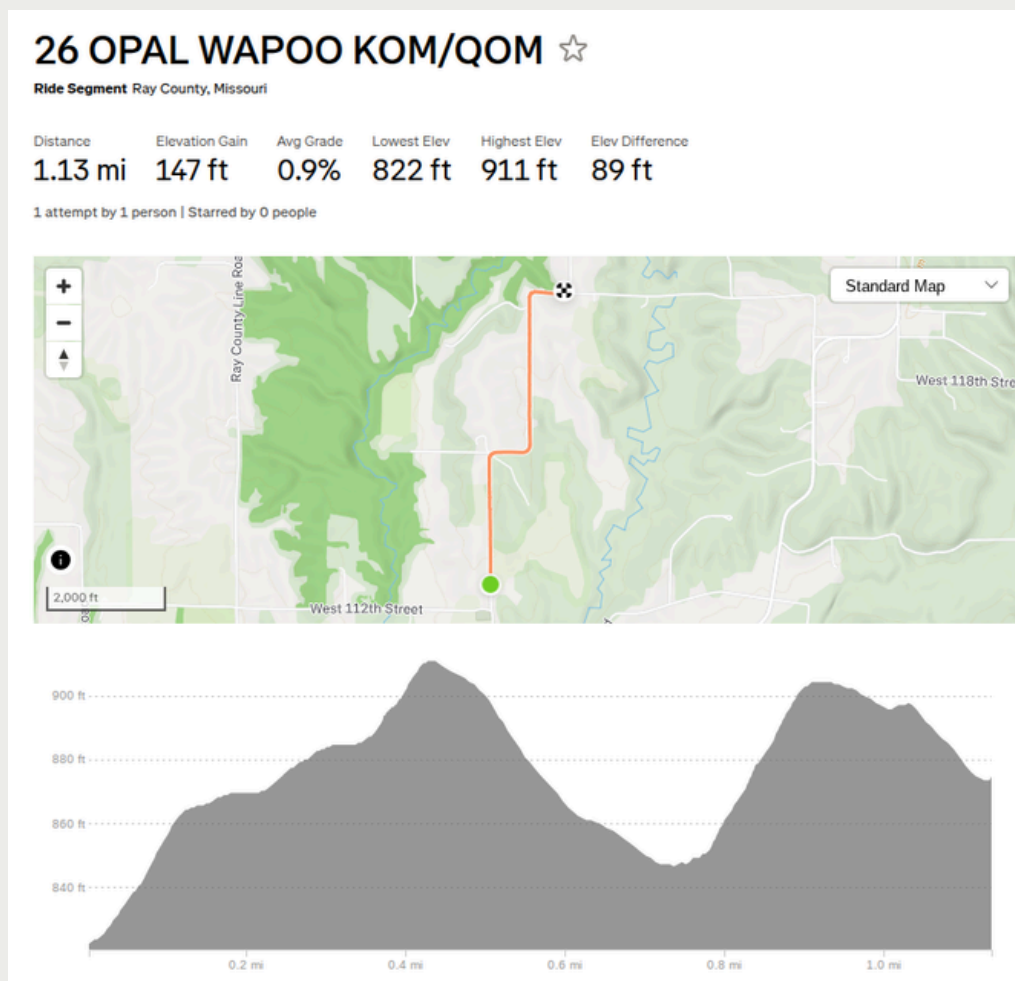
We highly suggest pre-riding Excelsior Singlettrack on the Friday before the race.

Just following your last aid station (45-mile/85-mile), you will enter a farm path/double track that includes an off-camber rocky descent that will lead you back to the road. Many are able to clean this section, while others may need to dismount. This path is on private property and should not be ridden outside of race day.

KOM/QOM

CHALLENGE

Each distance will pass through the KOM/QOM challenge. One KOM and one QOM winner will receive an Opal Wapoo jersey courtesy of sponsor Agile Sportswear. It is located in roughly the last mile and half of gravel. There will be a KOM/QOM start and end sign - be on the lookout!



PODIUMS

& AWARDS

Baby Poo 20-mile

- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Place Male Awards
- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Place Female Awards

Opal 45-mile

- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Place Male Awards + \$75 / \$50 / \$25 Cash Prize
- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Place Female Awards + \$75 / \$50 / \$25 Cash Prize
- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Place Junior Male Awards
- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Place Junior Female Awards
- 1st Place Single Speed Male
- 1st Place Single Speed Female
- 1st Place Tandem

Wapoo 85-mile

- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Place Male + \$175 / \$100 / \$75 Cash Prize
- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Place Female + \$175 / \$100 / \$75 Cash Prize
- 1st Place Single Speed Male
- 1st Place Single Speed Female
- 1st Place Tandem

FINISH LINE

SHENANIGANS

We will be ready at the finish to celebrate with you! Each rider will receive a famous Opal Wapoo finisher bolo tie when you cross the line.

- Beer ticket: You will receive one ticket for a free beer, courtesy of sponsor Atlas Saloon, who will be serving beer at the finish line party. Additional beers may be purchased.
- Sandwiches & chips
- Music
- Saturdays in downtown Excelsior Springs are special - please enjoy our local businesses located in downtown!
- Stop by and say hi to Jeremy Hutsell at the Lauf tent
- Podiums will be conducted as they complete



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO