



Saddleback Marathon

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Same Mountains, Same Start/Finish

Course remains re-routed due to #HolyFire and other forest issues. This year, we start in our usual stomping grounds, lower Blue Jay Campgrounds. From there runners go up The Main Divide for early morning views of Riverside and Orange Counties. At the turnaround, there's about ten miles of downhill, much of it technical single track, and then finally a ten mile climb back into lower Blue Jay to complete this footrace.



Blue Jay Campgrounds Cleveland National Forest



The Saddleback Marathon is back!

Same mountains, Same Start/Finish
Saturday, November 11, 2023

Race Details

Location

Blue Jay Campgrounds: off Ortega Highway about 21 miles inland from San Juan Capistrano, CA. Take Ortega Hwy exit from I5 and head inland toward The Saddleback Mountains. Turn left on Long Canyon Road/Forest Rte 6S05 (approx. 2.5 miles past Ortega Oaks Candy Store). Follow signs for Blue Jay Campground (approx. 3 miles). If approaching from Lake Elsinore in Riverside County (I15) take Rte 74 west to Long Canyon Road/ Forest Rte 6S05 (about a 1/2 mile past Hell's Kitchen). Turn right and follow signs (approx. 3 miles) for [Blue Jay Campground](#). Cell service is sporadic in the area. Please plan ahead.

Pre-Race Bib Pick-Up (Optional)

Lower Blue Jay campgrounds Friday, November 10, 2023, 6 pm – 9 pm. (No Exceptions)

Marathon \$120

Race day entry includes race day shirt and beanie, finish line meal/refreshments, finisher medal and special awards for top three overall finishers.

Early Start Check-in ¹	5:00 am
Early Start	5:30 am
Official Check-in	5:45 am
Race Briefing	6:45 am
Official Start	7:00 am
Cut-Off (Mile 15)	11:30 am



The Saddleback Marathon remains re-routed due to #HolyFire which burned the original route. This year, participants run through the campground to Long Canyon Road and then up the Main Divide where they will turn around and head back into the campground utilizing Falcon Trail for a fairy-tale like woodlands jaunt. Then runners will take what locals refer to as the Candy Store Loop, technical single track along San Juan, Chiquito, and San Juan Loop trails then back, picking up the Viejo Tie for another scenic route on the way in. The Cut off is located at mile 15, in the San Juan Loop parking lot on Ortega Highway across the street from The Candy Store. Those who do not arrive to this distance by 11:30 am will be driven back to lower Blue Jay.

¹ Early start must be indicated at registration and is reserved for slower runners. Early start not eligible for special awards.

Race Details (continued)

Aid Stations

Mile 3.6	A,W
Mile 6.3	A,W,F,B
Mile 9.2	A
Mile 15.2	A,W,F,B
Mile 23	A

(A=first aid, W=water, F=food, B=bathrooms)

Cut-offs

Runners must reach mile 15 by 11:30 am.

Drops

If you drop from the race, you must inform a race official. If you do not, you may be liable for a search and rescue costs.

Early Start

Allowed if indicated at registration. Reserved for runners who are unable to maintain a pace to make the cutoff.

Elevation Gain

Approximately 3,900'

Head phones

Allowed, keep volume low

Refunds

No refunds. This race does not allow refunds of any kind. Race entries will be applied to the next year's race in the event of a cancellation due to circumstances beyond our control (fire, government shutdown, etc.). Though standard policy, it is difficult for some to accept the "No Refunds" policy, and we understand that. It is our absolute desire to put these races on, even if it means taking money out of household funds to pay for upfront costs like insurance or permits. Please keep in mind there are continual costs, not based race day – such as advertisement, websites, merchandise, etc. that have no return policy for the race directors as well. With that said, we hope that you register for this race. We will do everything within our power to deliver the 2023 Saddleback Marathon. If we cannot because of circumstances beyond our control, we will hold the race at a later date and you will receive a voucher (plus anything else we can find to give you because we appreciate your patience). Harassing the race director does not affect this policy.

Hiking poles

Semi-allowed (when field spreads out)

Markings

Route will be marked with colorful ties and/or flour

Pacers

Not Allowed

Race Day Registration

Race day registration is available, permitted space is available. Cash only please.

Spectators

Spectators can see runners at Start/Finish in lower Blue Jay as they run through mile 6. You can also see them at mile 15, in the San Juan Loop Parking lot on Ortega Highway across the street from Ortega Oaks Candy Store.

Weather

Be sure to check the weather before arriving. The Santa Ana Mountains during November can have varying weather. You may see a warm day, or on the extreme, see temperatures near freezing in the mornings.

Timing

RFID race chip timing by Fusion Timing



Facilities

Blue Jay Campground

Located approximately 3 miles off Ortega Hwy, Blue Jay Campground has 50 sites with a varying distance apart for a true "wilderness" feel. Amenities include trash cans, fire pits, grills, vaulted toilets, and plenty of local trails for hiking, biking and equestrian. Visit the [Cleveland National Forest](#) for more details.

Parking

All vehicles must display a National Forest Adventure Pass. If you do not own an annual pass, you must purchase a day pass (\$5). A limited number of passes will be available for purchase at check-in on race day. Day passes are also available in person at [Big5 Sporting Goods](#) Stores. Be sure to call your store ahead to confirm.

Once on the road to lower Blue Jay, stay on right side and pull as close as possible to the car in front of you, only allowing sufficient room to pull out. Large gaps are unacceptable. Turnouts on Long Canyon Road near Blue Jay campground's entrance may be used for overflow parking (with valid parking pass, see above). **Do not park in campsite parking if you have not rented a campsite. You will be ticketed by the Forest Service.**

Camping

Shared Campsites (Lower Blue Jay)

(Check-in 4:00pm, -- 9 pm Friday evening)

Shared campsites are available for rent at registration in lower Blue Jay. These campsites are the closest to the Start/Finish line. \$20 per runner. Families welcome. **1 tent only please.**

There is no parking at the shared campsites. Campers may pull their vehicles into the lower Blue Jay circle to unload gear, but must park outside the circle with valid parking permit (See Parking). The spots closest to the circle will be reserved for campers who arrive Friday night, November 10.

Full campsites (Upper Blue Jay)

Full campsites are available for rent in upper Blue Jay from the Forest Service. Available on first-come- first-serve basis for \$20, daily. Pay at kiosk at campground entrance. Keep in mind that this is a holiday weekend and these sites will fill quickly.

Parking is available at the campsite for full campsite rentals.

Leave No Trace

We are fortunate to run here. What goes into the forest with you must come out of the forest with you. Tread lightly and leave nothing but your foot print. Use the Aid Stations to dispose of your trash. While in lower Blue Jay, dispose trash in receptacles at the Start Line, not in the campsite trash bins. We are hauling all of the trash out.





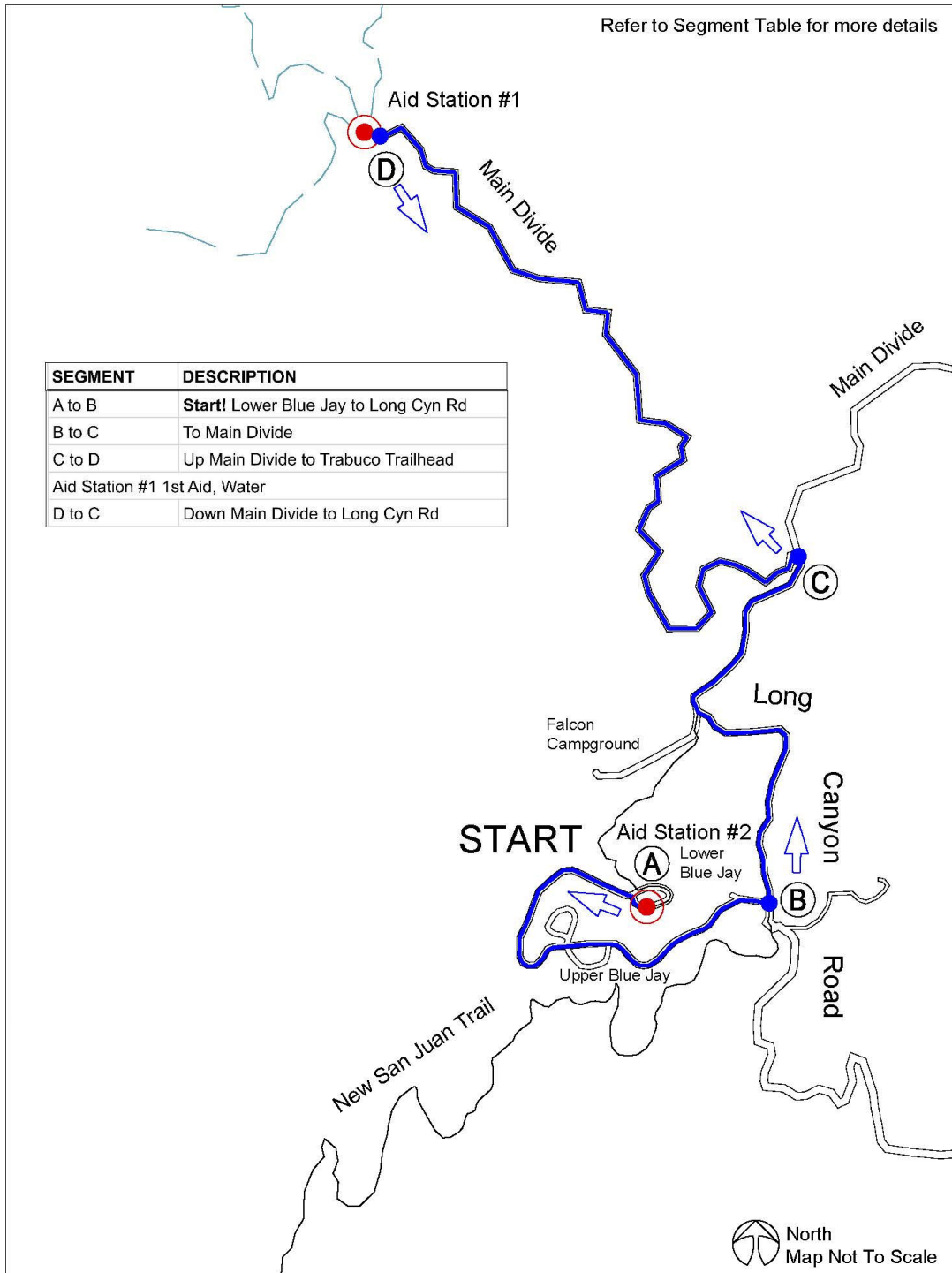
Course Maps

SADDLEBACK MARATHON 2023							
Segment Table							
MAP	SEGMENT	SEGMENT NAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	DISTANCE	MILE	
2	A to B	BLUE JAY CAMPGROUND	Start! Lower Blue Jay to Long Cyn Rd	Asphalt	0.9		
	B to C	LONG CYN RD	To Main Divide	Asphalt	1		
	C to D	MAIN DIVIDE	Up Main Divide to Trabuco Trailhead	Truck Trail	1.7		
	Aid Station #1 MAIN DIVIDE TOP, First Aid, Water					3.6	
	D to C	MAIN DIVIDE	Down Main Divide to Long Cyn Rd	Truck Trail	1.7		
3	C to E	LONG CYN RD	To Falcon Trail	Asphalt	0.5		
	E to A	FALCON TRAIL	To Lower Blue Jay (Take circle clockwise)	Single Track	0.5		
	Aid Station #2 LOWER BLUE JAY, First Aid, Water, Food, Bathrooms					6.3	
	A to B	BLUE JAY CAMPGROUND	Lower Blue Jay to Long Cyn Rd	Asphalt	0.9		
	B to F	SAN JUAN TRAIL	To Chiquito Trail	Single Track	2		
Aid Station #3, SAN JUAN / CHIQUITO JUNCTION, First Aid					9.2		
4	F to G to H	CHIQUITO TRAIL	To San Juan Loop	Single Track	5		
	H to I	SAN JUAN LOOP (EAST)	To Parking Lot (Take loop clockwise)	Single Track	1		
5	Aid Station #4, SAN JUAN LOOP PARKING LOT, First Aid, Water, Food, Bathrooms					15.2	
	I to H	SAN JUAN LOOP (WEST)	To Chiquito Trail	Single Track	1.1		
6	H to G	CHIQUITO TRAIL	To Viejo Tie (@ wood plank bridge on left)	Single Track	4.5		
	G to J	VIEJO TIE	To San Juan Trail	Single Track	1.2		
Aid Station #5, VIEJO TIE / SAN JUAN JUNCTION, First Aid					22		
7	J to B	SAN JUAN TRAIL	To Long Cyn Rd (pass Chiquito Trail)	Single Track	3		
	B to E	LONG CYN RD	To Falcon Trail	Asphalt	0.5		
	E to A	FALCON TRAIL	To Lower Blue Jay Clockwise to Finish!	Single Track	0.5		
						26	
* Course not certified							

See Proceeding pages for Segment Maps

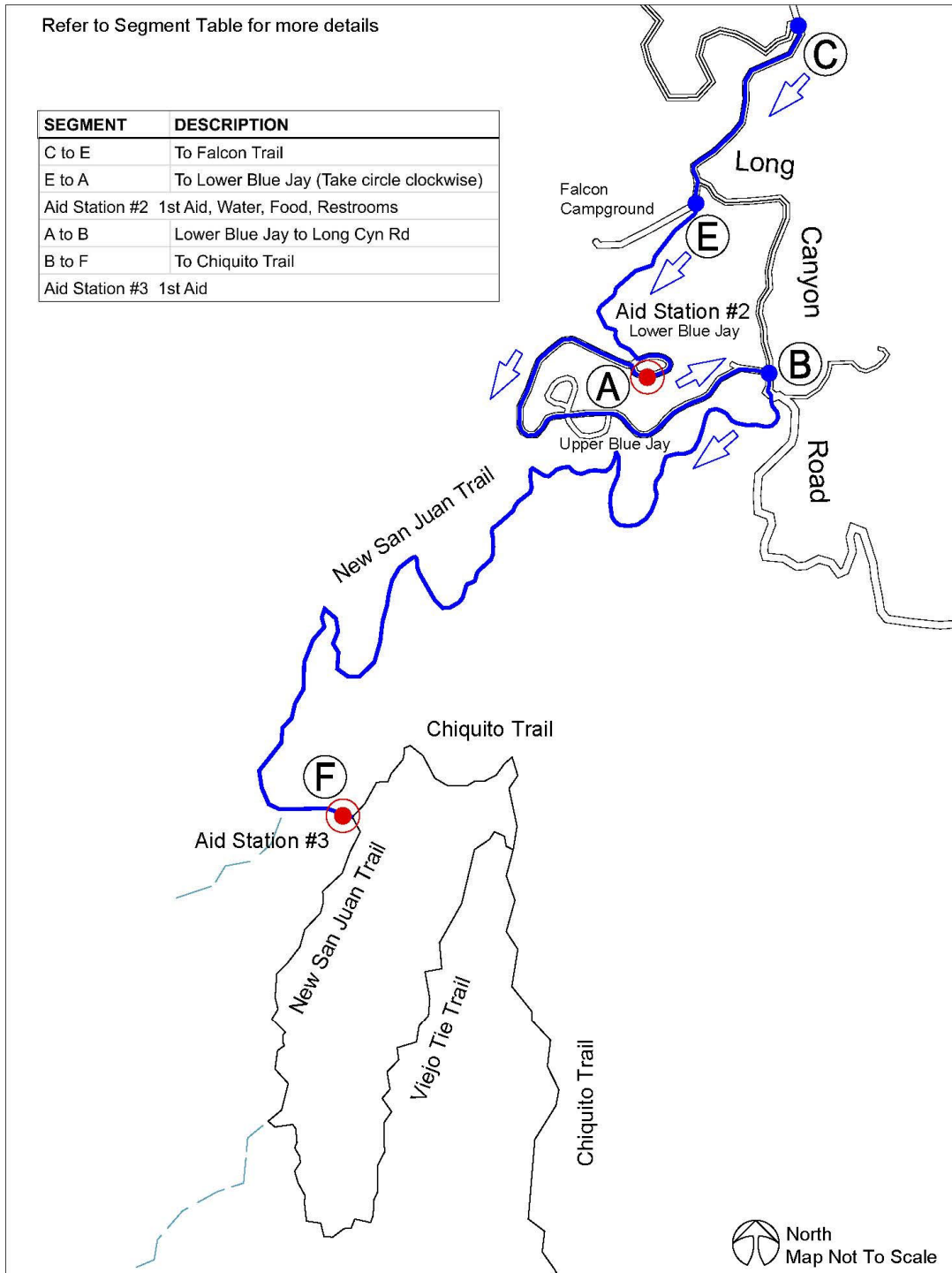


Course Maps



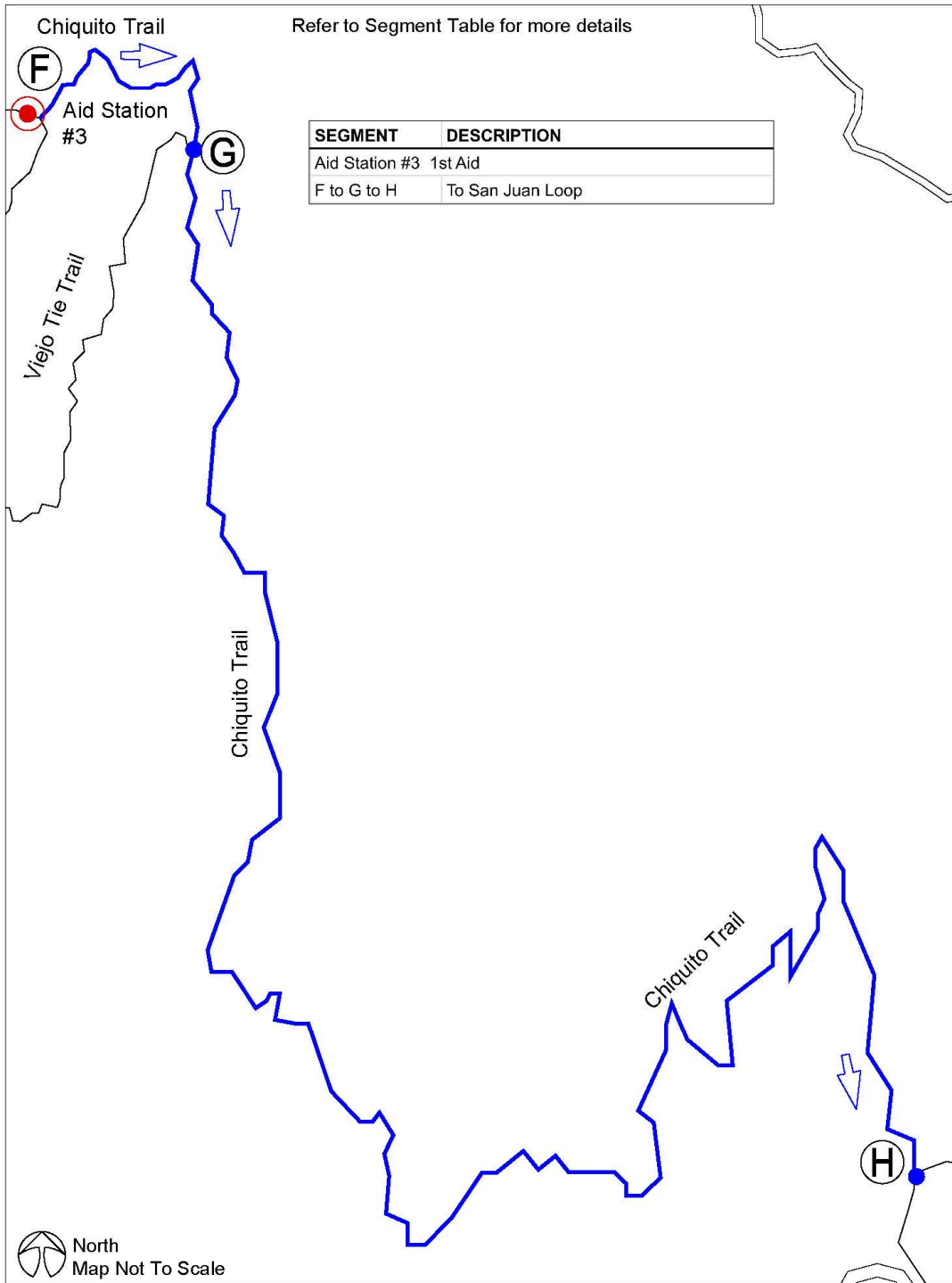
Segment Map 2

Course Maps



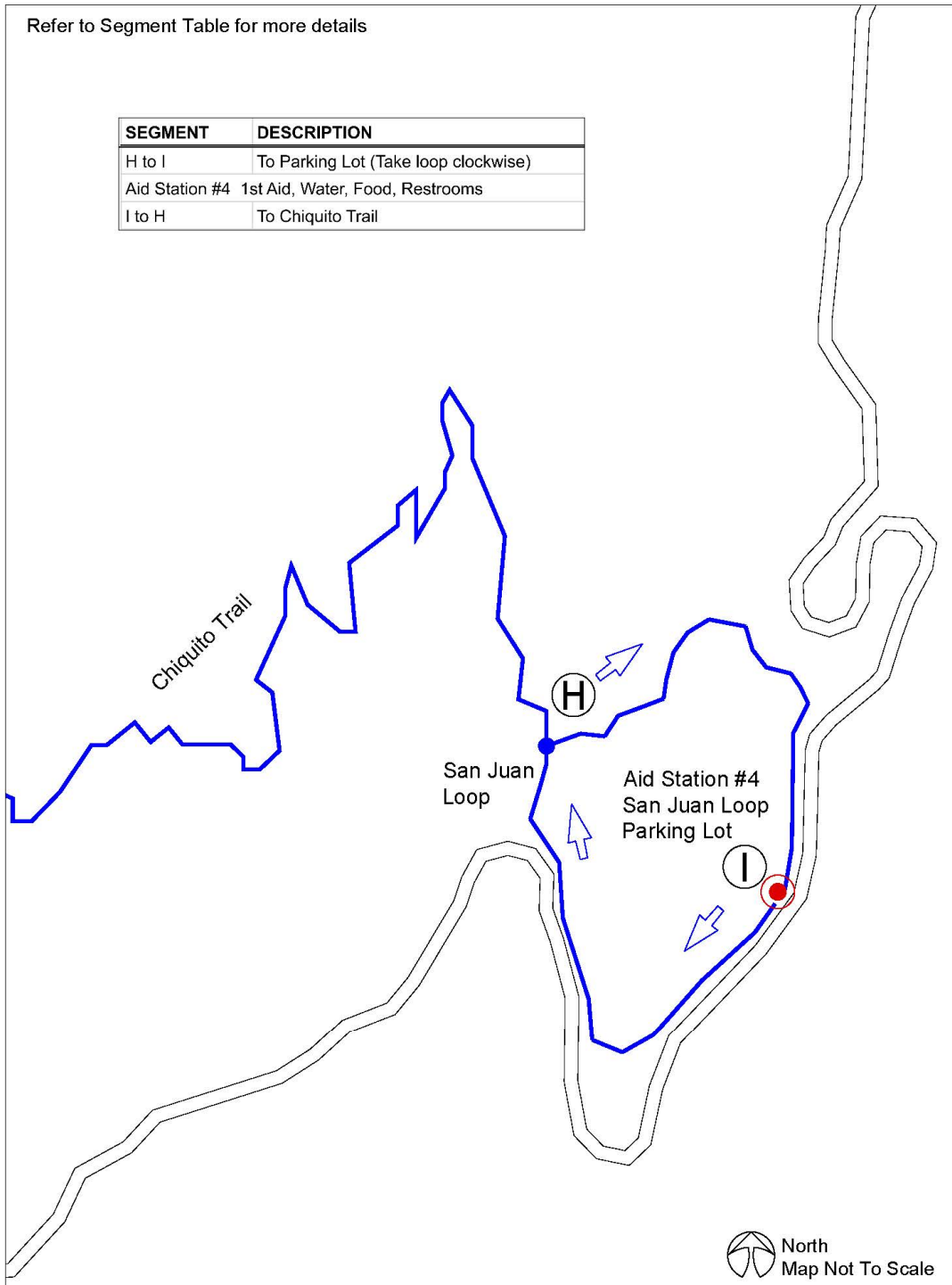
Segment Map 3

Course Maps



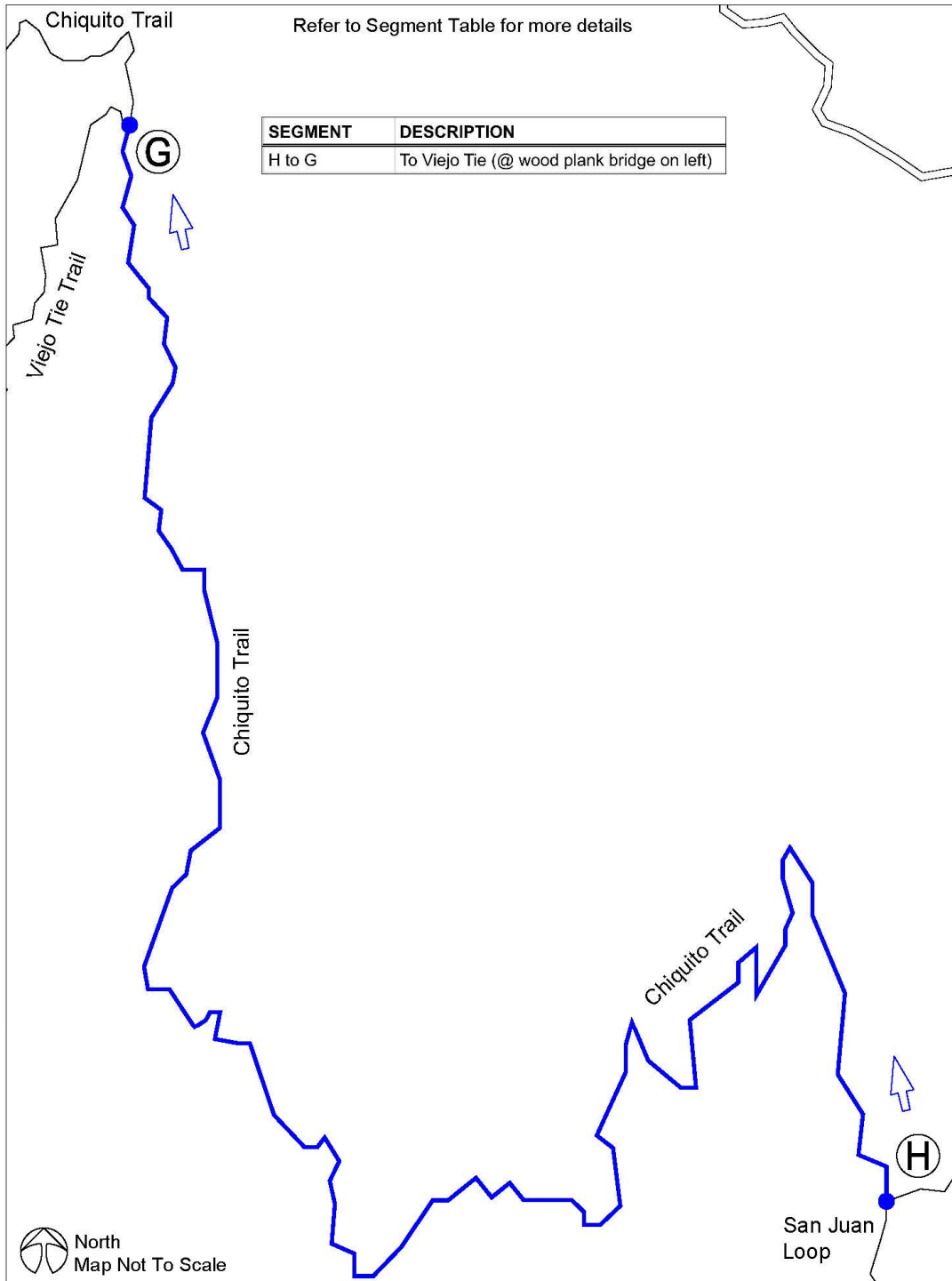
Segment Map 4

Course Maps



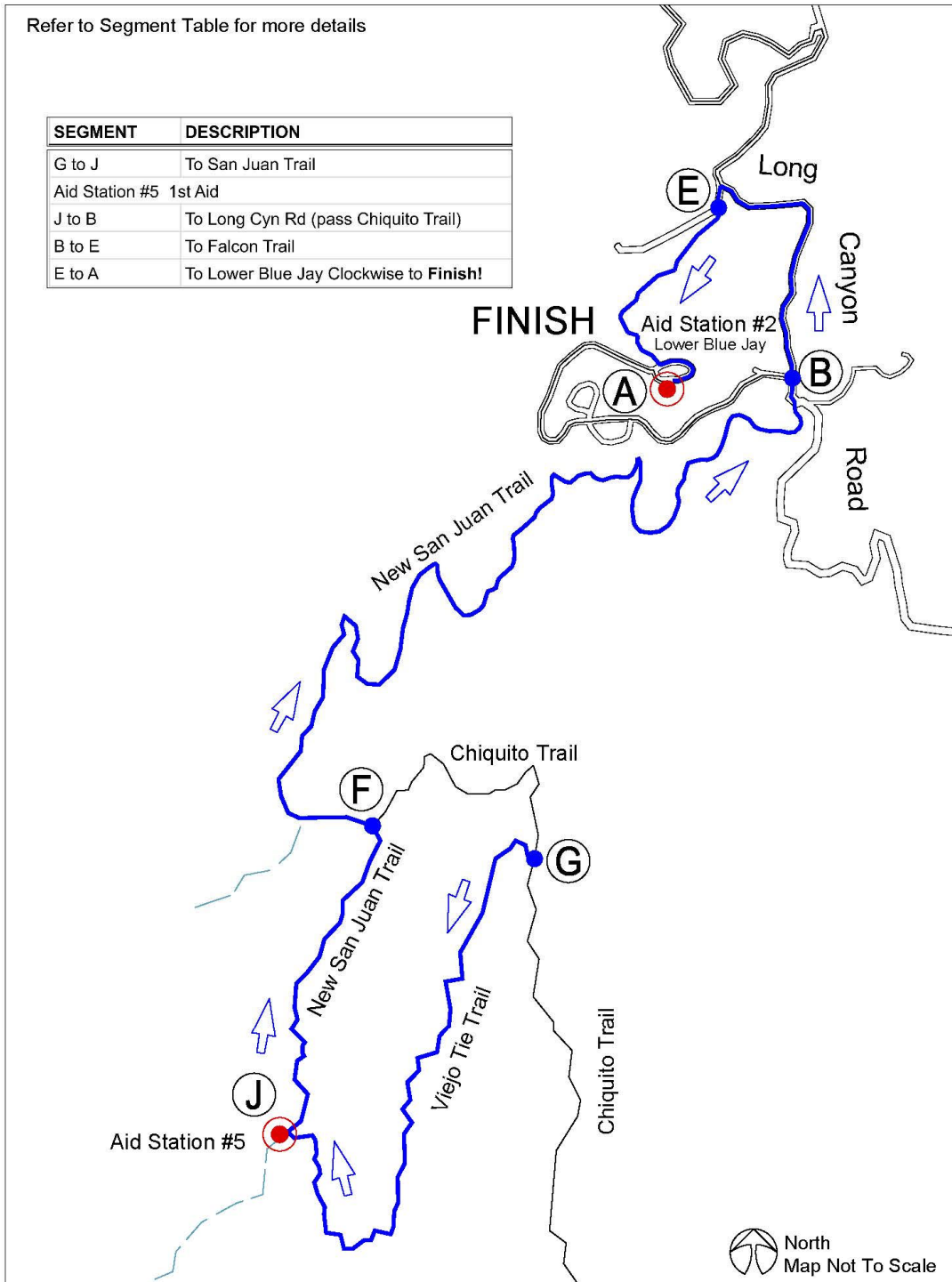
Segment Map 5

Course Maps



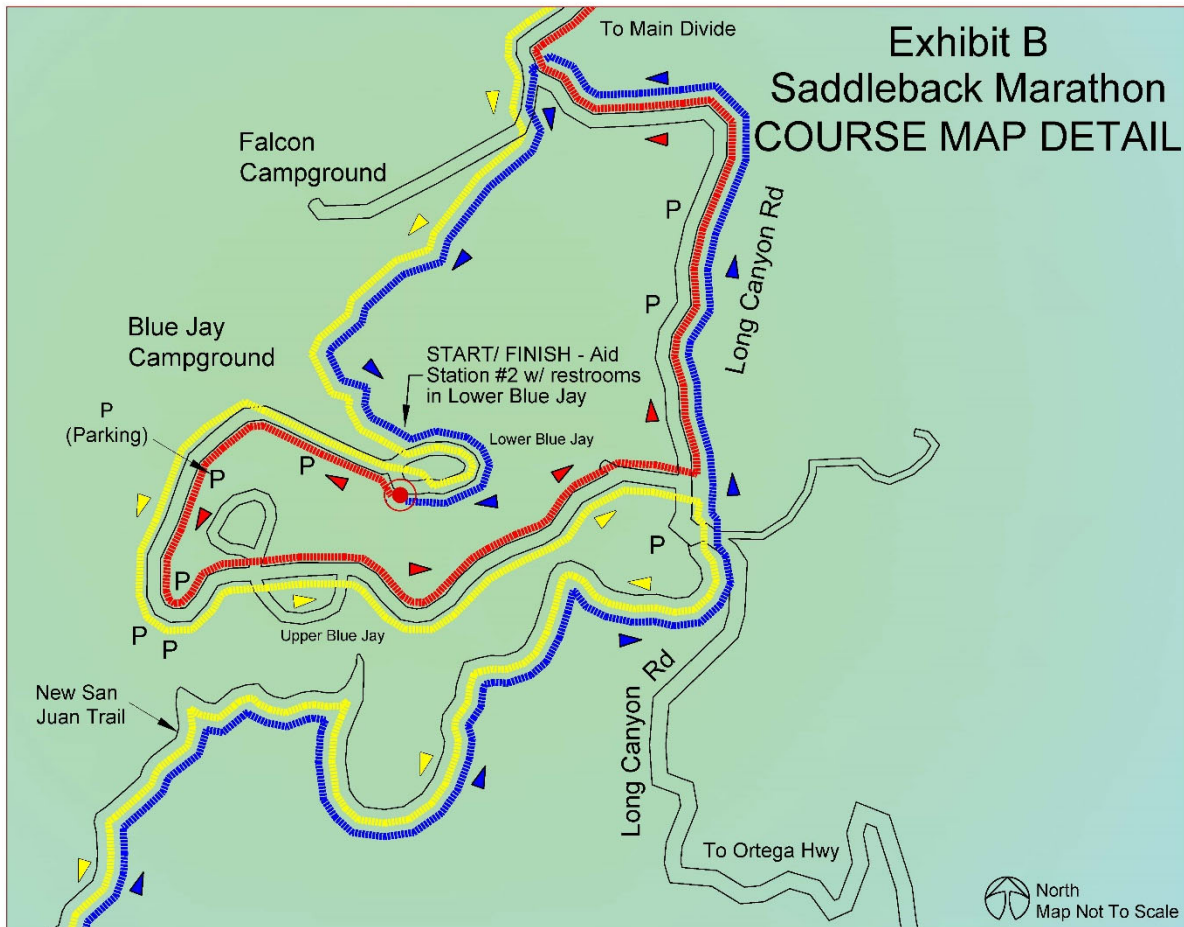
Segment Map 6

Course Maps



Segment Map 7

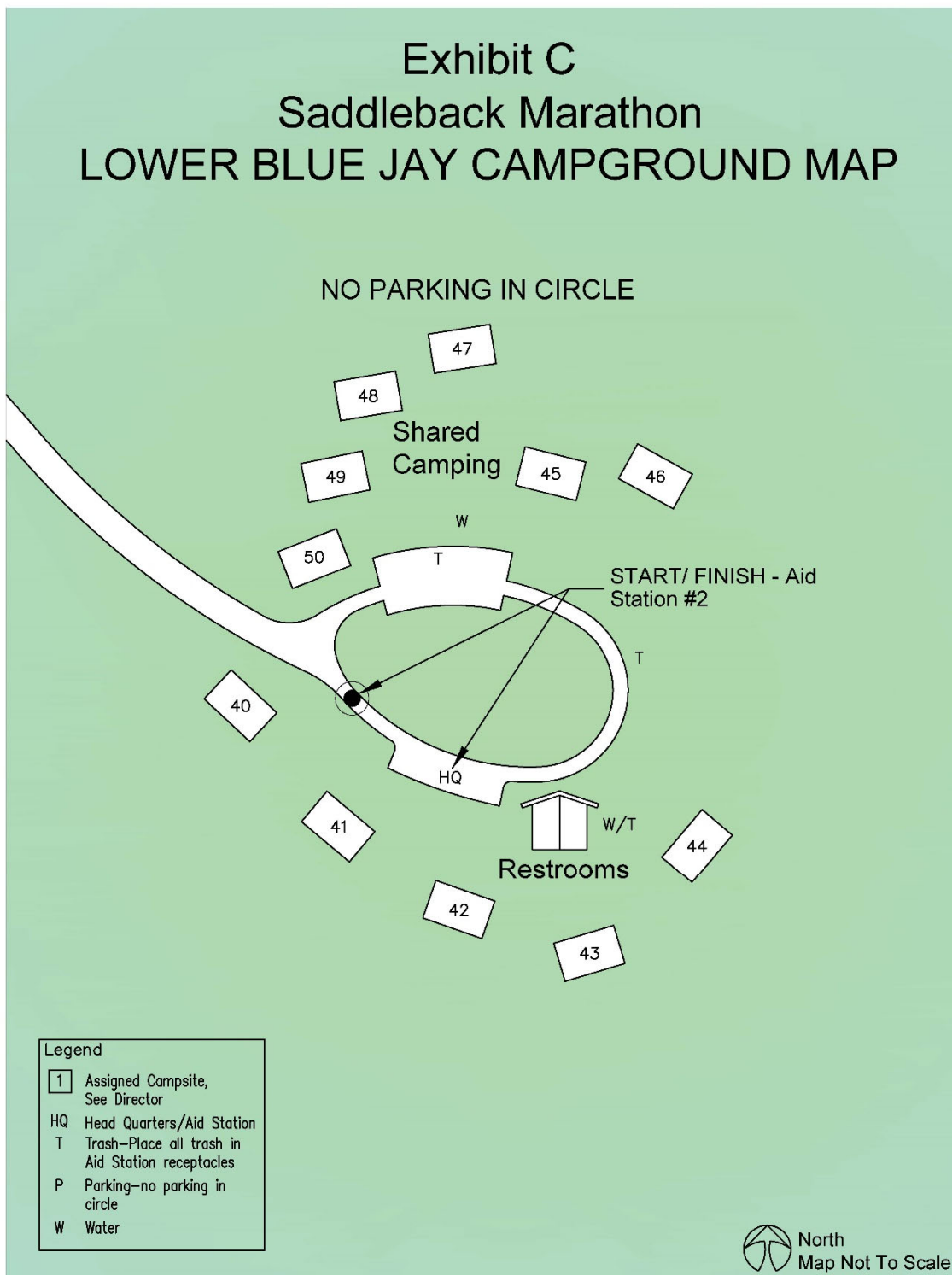
Parking Map



All vehicles must display a **National Forest Adventure Pass** (See parking pg. 5)

Once on the road to lower Blue Jay, stay on right side and pull as close as possible to the car in front of you, only allowing sufficient room to pull out. Please follow parking volunteer instructions. Large gaps are unacceptable. Turnouts on Long Canyon Road near Blue Jay campground's entrance may be used for overflow parking (with valid parking pass, see above). **Do not park in campsite parking if you have not rented a campsite. You will be ticketed by the Forest Service.**

Lower Blue Jay Campground Map



Medical Plan

Emergency Access

Long Canyon Road and the circle in lower Blue Jay campgrounds will be kept clear to allow emergency vehicle access. Runner/Spectator Safety: 1 to 2 Traffic directors will direct traffic and signs and barriers will be placed to ensure the safety of runners and spectators.

Aid Stations

First Aid available at start/finish, and also at the following mileage:

Mile 3.6	A,W
Mile 6.3	A,W,F,B
Mile 9.2	A
Mile 15.2	A,W,F,B
Mile 23	A

(A=first aid, W=water, F=food, B=bathrooms)

Emergency Phone #'s

9-1-1

US Forest Service Fire Station (949) 728-0113
35505 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

El Cariso Fire Station (951) 678-3136
32353 Ortega Hwy, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Trabuco Ranger Station (951) 736-1181
1147 East 6th Street, Corona, CA 92879

Helicopter Landing Zone

Cariso Village

Medical Facilities

Inland Valley Medical Center

36485 Inland Valley Drive
Wildomar, CA 92595
(951) 677-1111

Directions to Inland Valley Medical Center (20 miles from race start/finish):

Head northeast on San Juan Trail toward Long Canyon Rd
Turn right to stay on Long Canyon Rd
Turn left onto CA-74 E
Turn right onto Grand Ave
Turn left onto Clinton Keith Rd
Turn right onto Inland Valley Dr

Mission Hospital

27700 Medical Center Rd
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
(949) 499-1311

Directions to Mission Hospital Center (29 miles from race start/finish):

Head northeast on San Juan Trail toward Long Canyon Rd
Turn right to stay on long Canyon Rd
Turn left onto CA-74 E
Merge onto Interstate 5, Northbound
Exit Crown Valley Parkway
Turn right on Crown Valley Parkway

Partners, Sponsors & Friends

