

Ray Gerkin Cross Country Invitational, 58th Annual Saturday, September 21, 2024 at Muscatatuck County Park

LOCATION- The Muscatatuck County Park is located on IN 7, one mile south of US 50. Buses should enter from IN 7, **NOT from Gum Street**. There will be specific parking for buses. The parking attendants will direct you.

ADMISSION- \$5.00 per person OR \$10 per car load – **Cash Only**

ENTRY FEE- \$200.00 per school Boys \$100/Girls \$100

INVITATIONAL T-SHIRTS- Sold on site at shelter house for **cash** while supplies last.

SUBMIT ROSTERS - Coaches/ADs need to enter their teams on Direct Athletics (www.directathletics.com). All coaches have been sent invitations to register. Please do not send spreadsheets or other documents for entries. The website is listed below. Questions can be directed to timer Mark Felix at photofinishtiming@gmail.com .

Website: <https://www.directathletics.com/meets/xc/24613.html>

COACHES MEETING- There will be a coaches meeting prior to the race at **8:45am** by Shelter 5. Instructions will also be delivered via the meet packet and instructions from the meet officials.

RACE TIMES - The girls' varsity race will begin at 9:00 AM and the boys' varsity race will immediately follow (approximately 9:30 AM). Walking the course must be done prior to the race times listed. Each team will have a starting box wide enough for two runners abreast. Lane assignments are listed below. The boys and girls race will be unlimited runners for the teams but will score the top 5.

AWARDS - There will be an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the boys' race. Team trophies will be given and the top 10 individuals from each race will be announced. Individual ribbons can be picked up at the shelter house.

Team Trophy- 1st place team

Team Ribbons- 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place teams.

Individual Ribbons-1st place thru 25th place

LANE ASSIGNMENTS- Use the same lane for both Boys and Girls race.

Bedford North Lawrence (B/G)	9
Brownstown Central (B/G)	1
Charlestown (B/G)	3
Columbus East (B/G)	8
Hauser (B/G)	11
Jennings County (B/G)	4
New Washington (B/G)	5
Scottsburg (B/G)	6
Seymour (B/G)	2
Shortridge (B/G)	10
South Central (B/G)	7
Trinity Lutheran (B/G)	12



PARKING AND ARRIVAL NOTICE- The race course does cross park roads. Please inform spectators that their early arrival will guarantee them the ability to see the races, as roads are closed for the runners' safety once the race begins. There will be reserved bus parking- look for parking attendants to direct your buses

In Memory of Coach Ray Gerkin

Hosting the Big Blue Invitational had been a staple of the Jennings County cross country program for 54 consecutive years. On August 13th, 2020 Jennings County Schools lost a beloved teacher and cross country coach with the passing of Mr. Ray Gerkin. In Mr. Gerkin's honor, it was resolved by the Jennings County School Corporation Board of Trustees that the Big Blue Invitational for boys' and girls' cross country be known as the Ray Gerkin Invitational effective immediately. The 2023 Ray Gerkin Invitational will be the 57th annual cross country invitational hosted by Jennings County High School.

Ray Gerkin coached cross country at Jennings County High School for 37 years, longer than any other coach in the school's history. He became the assistant to the boys' program in 1971. Gerkin would later take over as the head coach for the boys in 1980, a year in which three girls ran on the team and competed in four different meets. Ray continued as head cross country coach in 1981 and in 1982 the first full girls' team in JCHS history placed fourth out of seven teams in the Hoosier Hills Conference and ninth out of 12 teams in their first Sectional. That same year, the boys won the first of two Sectional championships under Coach Gerkin's leadership.

Coach Gerkin continued as head coach for both teams from 1983 through 1987. During that time, the boys qualified for the Semi-State for the first time ever. The girls team won their invitational title, posted winning dual meet seasons, twice placed third in the HHC, and qualified for the regional for the first time. Coach Gerkin returned to lead the girls' program in 1991 and held that position until retiring after the 2011 season. The 1991 girls team placed second in both the Sectional and Regional to qualify for the Semi-State for the first time in school history.

Coach Gerkin said his most memorable event was when Richard Scroggins won the Boys' Sectional as a Freshman. Gerkin also noted that winning the Boys' Sectional in 1982 with a team led by Tony McDaniel and Kevin Capes was very special too.

Ray Gerkin Invitational (Formerly Big Blue Cross Country Invitational) Champions

	* Denotes Record Time	**Record Time at Old Distance	#First Year of Girls 5K Distance	Team Champs
1990	Nathan Lewis	Jennings County	16:12	South Ripley
	Amy Graham	Bedford N. Lawrence	14:43	Jennings County
1991	Jonathan White	Austin	16:39	Bedford N. L.
	Angie Menser	Batesville	15:37	Bedford N. L.
1992	Jonathan White	Austin	16:23	Austin
	Erin Chapple	Columbus East	16:03	Columbus East
1993	Jonathan White	Austin	16:26	Austin
	Angie Menser	Batesville	15:37	Columbus East
1994	Jason Heile	Milan	16:48	Columbus East
	Amber Macy	Columbus East	15:31	Columbus East
1995	Matt Volz	Milan	16:56	Austin
	Amber Macy	Columbus East	15:35	Columbus East
1996	Matt Scheidt	Columbus East	17:01	Columbus East
	Amber Macy	Columbus East	14:51	Columbus East
1997	Jeff Rumsey	Rising Sun	17:07	Columbus East
	Stacey Ketron	Columbus East	15:05	Columbus East
1998	Brad Wochomurka	Columbus East	17:04	Columbus East
	Molly Datillo	Madison	14:35**	Madison
1999	Chris Swisher	Milan	16:51	Columbus East

	Molly Datillo	Madison	15:29	Columbus East
2000	Robert Duncan	Jennings County	17:08	Columbus East
	Allison Worthington	South Dearborn	16:11	Columbus East
2001	John Nay	Columbus East	16:59	Columbus East
	Brooke Carr	Madison	16:00	Oldenburg Academy
2002	Rob Grote	Batesville	16:34	Columbus East
	Jillian Yorn	Batesville	15:25	South Dearborn
2003	Rob Grote	Batesville	16:12	Batesville
	Caitlin Sauerhage	Rising Sun	16:10	South Dearborn
2004	Brandon Welti	Milan	16:49	Batesville
	Whitney Hamilton	Southwestern	16:22	Southwestern
2005	Tyler Roell	Batesville	17:05	Columbus East
	Whitney Hamilton	Southwestern	15:50	Batesville
2006	Brad Fortuna	South Dearborn	16:37	East Central
	Kristal Studer	East Central	15:51	East Central
2007	Michael Kurtz	Columbus East	17:28	Columbus East
	Kristal Studer	East Central	19:21# 5K	Madison
2008	Tucker Settle	Columbus East	17:14	Batesville
	Kristal Studer	East Central	19:46	Batesville
2009	Kris Sandlin	Scottsburg	17:00	Batesville
	Stephanie Chelsea	Madison	20:44	Batesville
2010	Hayden Merkel	Batesville	16:46	Jennings County
	Chelsea Stepan	Madison	19:28	Madison
2011	Jeremy Johnson	Austin	17:06	Jennings County
	Taylor Royalty	Trinity Lutheran	20:36	Batesville
2012	Jonah Woods	Jennings County	16:56	Madison
	Gabby Nay	Madison	20:42	Batesville
2013	Jonah Woods	Jennings County	16:44	Jennings County
	Kelsey Gausman	Batesville	20:52	Batesville
2014	Kyle Lewis	Jennings County	16:40	Austin
	Kelsey Gausman	Batesville	20:12	Batesville
2015	Zach Martini	Rising Sun	16:48	Jennings County
	Whitley Schirmer	Switzerland County	20:11	Batesville
2016	Franklin Sanders	Jennings County	16:04	Jennings County
	Sarah Poltrack	Batesville	19:21	Batesville
2017	Dalton Craig	Jennings County	15:48	Jennings County
	Leah Anders	Switzerland County	19:27	Batesville
2018	Carter Leak	Jennings County	16:14	Jennings County
	Emma Morrison	Jennings County	19:49	Jennings County
2019	Carter Leak	Jennings County	16:19	Jennings County
	Ava Hanson	Batesville	20:00	Batesville
2020	Paul Stamm	Cardinal Ritter	15:20*	Jennings County
	Jenna Gruber	Cardinal Ritter	18:37*	Corydon Central
2021	Maddox Baker	South Central	16:19	Jennings County
	Vivienne Siefker	Seymour	19:32	Seymour
2022	Jude Bane	Seymour	16:20.79	Roncalli
	Vivienne Siefker	Seymour	19:30.04	Roncalli
2023	Kraedyn Young	Jennings County	16:30.27	Jennings County
	Vivienne Siefker	Seymour	20:11.90	Seymour