



2025 XC Nationals



“Making Dreams Come True with Teamwork”

#building a national championship team together

Another Cross-Country season is upon us, and hopefully another successful and awesome experience at the AAU Cross Country Nationals. This year’s event will take place at Victor Ashe Park in Knoxville, Tennessee on Saturday, December 6.

The AAU National Cross-Country meet is made up of 12 age/gender divisions, which include age 5-18. It is the goal of KCXC Elite to take as many athletes as possible to represent Kern County and possibly other areas of California. Last year we took 68 athletes, and this year’s goal is 80-85. We hope to have 14 age group/gender teams and win the National Overall team title, which would be a first for our area. Last year we were in 2nd place with only 9 teams, so the goal is achievable.

Thanks to our beloved sponsors and numerous grant programs, if we start early fundraising efforts, we should easily have the funding for 85-90 athletes and partial funding for another 30-40 coaches, parents and volunteers. But like my grandfather used to always say, “Son, that tree isn’t going to cut itself down”. We must work hard and consistently and with heart because it always takes a lot of sacrifice. If we come together as a community or a family, we have no reason not to believe that we can both attain the travel funds and win the National Championship.

The Nationals Pizza Party is Sunday, October 19 with a start time around 4:30-500 (not confirmed yet). Since we do not meet very often or it’s very rushed at practice or fundraising, please allocate at least 2-2 1/2 hours, and please be prepared to decide, and pay the registration fee donation. To be fair, all families and athletes will have 5 business days to accept or less depending on the numbers (first come first serve) Soon, after that, plane ticket deposit donations will be due, if your family or athlete is traveling with the group -otherwise its irrelevant.

Parents and Coaches will want to sign up their athletes for KCXC Elite before the Pizza Party because slots and scholarship will disappear quickly. Filing out and sending the application on our website www.kcxcelite.com will ensure a spot, and possibly a full or partial scholarship. Last year we had a few parents wait late in the process, and unfortunately, they didn’t receive any scholarship funds because the account was already pledged. Please keep in mind that even if you do receive some type of scholarship, that registration, deposits, fundraising, and covering some food cost will still be required.

Our qualifier is in Bakersfield again (location TBA) on Sunday, November 2. It's our home meet so we will need a lot of help with marking the course, starting line, course guides, award, and families to do concessions and fundraising activities. With everyone's help it will surely be a success. Last year we had 57 athletes at the event from KCXC, and 192 overall. We are hoping to set our attendance record this year with 250 plus athletes. Continued support for our local and regional AAU could help us secure a bid to host the National Championship here soon. Typically, unless we have an exorbitantly large age group, all athletes should qualify. Please remember that this qualifier is for our whole community of youth runners NOT just those who are entertaining the idea of participation in Knoxville. Let's make this event successful for Kern County and KCXC, and maybe one day we will host the National Championship.

If your family or child athletes travel with our team as a group, we will be leaving on Wednesday early for the airport before the race. Unless plans change, Airport bus and valet will be taking from Bakersfield to Burbank. Please keep in mind that if you drive your own car that fuel and parking are not covered except for individual fundraising accounts.

The first expenses to be covered by the scholarship will additionally expenses above the deposit (exception to the rule is groups that got an exclusive grant like from school – this money must be used first), then travel vans, and lodging expenses. Most families will NOT get a reimbursement check unless the group or individually fundraised. Please remember that only the first 75% of a individuals sponsorship check goes to the family responsible for attaining the donation. The balance goes back to common costs and the general scholarship fund. Note, there are always incidental or shared costs for the community that will also be debited from fundraising balances.

Incidental expenses (est: 85.00 per person) may include items or events like team spirit lunch, shipping of equipment, banner or other hardware, large community tent with chairs, table and canvasses, celebration dinner, plaques for sponsors, and group entertainment like this year's trip will be to Wonderworks in Knoxville. To add, individual fundraising accounts are secure from the overall team goal requirement (see thermometer on website), if you're not able to attend suddenly 60% will be secured and transferred to next season. Scholarship money is not secure, and every room and ticket has cancellation insurance, so be diligent in fulfilling requirements and contingencies. Your attendance is expected to be extremely high not only because we are team and we do stuff together, but it will take sacrifice, and actions or lack of concern will affect the atmosphere or mood of the team, so thank you for your consideration in advance.

To reiterate, please remember to sign up early, especially if you want additional practice and racing that will give your child the best experience and best chance to be successful. Also, it saves you spot on the team. Log unto www.kcxcelite today, fill out app, sign waiver, **pay 75.00 (*)** and your set for now, until **pizza party Oct 19.**

Let's get this done. Go KCXC #building -a-national-championship-team-together

(*) please remember all registration and deposit funds are considered donations because we are a charitable organization. Therefore after giving – these funds can not be refunded.