

# Harriers to gather for race in Helena

By Independent Record - 10/23/2008

Runners representing Montana's seven largest cities will compete in the 17th annual Montana Cup Team Cross Country Championship slated near Helena on Nov. 1.

The event, held at the BLM Recreation Area near Winston, will include a women's race at noon and a men's race at 1 p.m.

"Every seven years we have the opportunity to showcase the best Helena has to offer to runners from across the state," said Patrick Judge, 2008 Montana Cup Race Director. "We've worked hard to put together a top-notch event that will appeal to competitors and spectators alike."

Approximately 150-200 runners are expected to compete for both individual and team honors. The victors will inscribe their cities' on the trophies and take custody of the trophy for one year before passing them on to the subsequent winners.

There will be six team trophies, including two Montana Cups, which are awarded to the overall men's and women's team champions. The two top teams 40 and over will receive the Masters Cup, and for the first time this year, the two top junior teams 19 and under will receive the Cyppee Cup.

"It's a great chance for runners of all ages and abilities to experience a team cross-country event complete with uniforms, challenging terrain, spectacular scenery, and gorgeous fall weather," Judge said.

Judge said his first priority was to stage a safe and fun event, but he's also excited about Helena's individual and team prospects.

"Helena teams have historically fared quite well," Judge said. "The host city has a natural home-course advantage, and we're proud to be fielding a strong and deep team this year."

Registration will continue up to and including race day. Runners interested in competing should contact Judge at [pljudge@bresnan.net](mailto:pljudge@bresnan.net).

The Helena Vigilante Runners are hosting the race, which takes place Saturday, Nov. 1. Call 459-5838 for more information, or log on to [www.montanacup.com](http://www.montanacup.com).