

Press release - Chamonix (France), Thursday 12 September 2024

North America duo up next for UTMB World Series

From the stunning **Shenandoah Valley**, to the high peaks at **North America's largest ski resort**, UTMB® World Series is gearing up for an **unforgettable North American adventure**, with locals also preparing to discover the best of their backyard.

Triple qualifier awaits at Grindstone Trail Running Festival by UTMB



One of the most challenging trail events on the East Coast returns to Virginia, USA from September 20-22 as over 1,200 runners tackle the rugged trails of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, just west of Shenandoah Valley, as part of Grindstone Trail Running Festival™ by UTMB®.

As the **only 'triple qualifier' event** for three of the most iconic races in trail running: HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, Western States™ 100 Endurance Run and the Hardrock Hundred Mile Endurance Run, the event promises to be a challenging test of endurance, featuring exhilarating racing and unforgettable memories.

RACE INFORMATION		RACE INFORMATION	
100M	100K	50K	25K
100M	100K	50K	25K
100M	100K	50K	25K
100M	100K	50K	25K

[Download race information](#)

Race Director, Clark Zealand said, *"We are thrilled to kick off the 17th year of the Grindstone Trail Running Festival. The unmatched camaraderie among runners and the challenge of tackling some of the most beautiful, rugged terrain in the region makes it a truly unique challenge."*

A favorite amongst locals, runners will overcome high elevation, sweeping ridges and deep valleys. With three race distances on offer, including a **brand-new 100K** course, runners will embark on a unique adventure, climbing the **Appalachian Mountains** and discovering the best of the Shenandoah Valley, **nestled between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Allegheny Mountains**.

Elite Runners

Having finished second in the 100K race in 2023, **Devon Yanko** (USA, [UTMB Index 760](#)) steps up to the 100M for this edition of the race and proves to be one of the favorites in the women elite field. In the men's race, all eyes will be on **Nicholas Lightbody** (CAN, [UTMB Index 822](#)), runner-up at the HOKA Canyons Endurance Runs™ by UTMB®.

Hans Troyer (USA, [UTMB Index 846](#)) will be the one to beat in the men's race over the new-100K course, alongside **Arden Young** (CAN, [UTMB Index 710](#)) in the women's race.

Finishing 11th at the HOKA UTMB Mont Blanc CCC® last month, **Eric Lipuma** (USA, [UTMB Index 871](#)) will be looking to freshen up and fight for the top spot in the 50K race, while it could be a close match in the women's race against **Ashley Brasovan** (USA, [UTMB Index 734](#)) and **Sarah Bergeron-Larouche** (CAN, [UTMB Index 712](#)).



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The ultimate alpine playground awaits in the Sea-to-Sky corridor of British Columbia at the Ultra Trail Whistler by UTMB



North America's **largest world-class ski resort**, **Whistler Blackcomb, Canada**, will welcome over 1,000 runners to the Ultra Trail Whistler™ by UTMB® on September 28-29. As autumn's vibrant colors begin to emerge and the tail-end of summer continues to light up the **alpine landscapes and mountain lakes**, runners will discover the very best of Whistler's natural beauty.

With three race distances to choose from - 70K, 50K and 25K - runners will take on the **breathtaking Fitzsimmons Mountain Range** via varied terrain, deep evergreen forests and alpine meadows.

RACE INFORMATION		RACE INFORMATION	
70K	50K	25K	100K
70K	50K	25K	100K
70K	50K	25K	100K
70K	50K	25K	100K

[Download race information](#)

The legs and lungs will be burning from the off in the 70K and 50K races, as runners tick-off the **biggest climb of the day** up **Whistler Summit** early in the race, while the 25K race takes in many of the same highlights via flowy single-track trails. With all races starting and finishing at Creekside Plaza, an unforgettable experience awaits as family, friends and volunteers celebrate each runners' achievements in this stunning Canadian community.

Elite Runners

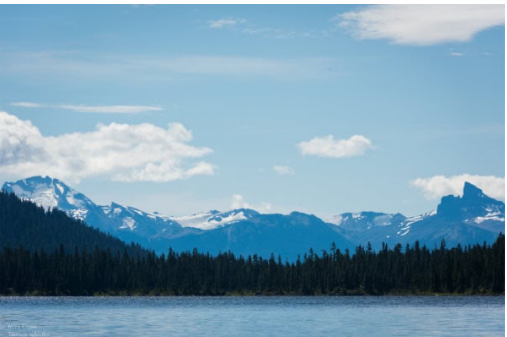
Elite runners to watch include **Katie Morgan** (GBR, [UTMB Index 703](#)), who will make her UTMB World Series debut in Canada and **Emma Page Patterson** (USA, [UTMB Index 700](#)) who will also take on the flagship 70K distance. In the 50K, **David Norris** (USA, [UTMB Index 834](#)) will be on the hunt for his first UTMB World Series win, after finishing second at Puerto Vallarta México by UTMB® in 2023.



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Follow all the action from both Grindstone Trail Running Festival by UTMB and Ultra Trail Whistler by UTMB [here](#).

- Upcoming events on UTMB World Series international circuit:**
- 12 - 15 September: Wildstrubel by UTMB® - Switzerland
 - 19 - 22 September: Paraty Brazil by UTMB® - Brazil
 - 20 - 22 September: Grindstone Trail Running Festival™ by UTMB® - USA
 - 20 - 22 September: Julian Alps Trail Run by UTMB® - Slovenia
 - 28 - 29 September: Ultra Trail Whistler™ by UTMB® - Canada
 - 3 - 6 October: Nice Côte d'Azur by UTMB® - France
 - 11 - 12 October: Kodiak Ultra Marathons™ by UTMB® - USA
 - 12 - 13 October: Transleju by UTMB® - South Korea
 - 17 - 20 October: Ultra-Trail Ninghai by UTMB® - China

Images

UTMB World Series images can be downloaded [here](#).
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Note to editors

About UTMB® World Series

UTMB® World Series is the world's ultimate trail-running circuit that unites the sport's biggest stars and passionate runners through the best, leading international events in the most stunning locations. Built on a passion for the mountains with sustainability at its heart, UTMB® World Series gives all trail runners the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the world, with events taking place across Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. It is the only place where runners can begin their quest to HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, where the prestigious UTMB® World Series Finals will be held. Launched in May 2021 through the collaboration between the UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group, the UTMB World Series circuit brings together many of the best international trail-running events on the planet. For more information, visit <https://utmb.world>.

About UTMB Group

Since the creation of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc is the sports pinnacle event, and every year, 10,000 runners earn their place on the start line. UTMB Group also pioneered the LiveTrail® technology, an innovative digital service that supports the management of endurance races. Revered by hundreds of thousands of athletes, UTMB® has become a global, premium, and leading brand. In May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc: surpassing oneself; fair-play; respect for people and the environment; and solidarity. Find out more at <https://utmb.world>.

UTMB Group media enquiries

presse@utmb.world

French enquiries:
Mélanie Godefroy - UTMB World Series PR and Media Manager
T: +33 7 89 260 148

International enquiries:
Sabina Mollart Rogerson - International press Officer
T: +44 7922 140148