

# Leelanau County Pre-Event Plan

## EVENT TITLE: Michigan Outback Relay

**Location:** Iosco County – Leelanau County

**Dates:** Friday, July 14 – Sunday, July 16, 2023

### Date Involving Leelanau County

**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Event Coordinator:** Bob Baril  
Co-Director      **Cell: (586) 808-0425**  
[robertbaril@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robertbaril@sbcglobal.net)

**Contact for Law Enforcement:** Lt. Duane Wright  
Leelanau County Sheriff's Office  
(231) 256-8800      **Office: (231) 256-8604**  
[dwright@leelanau.gov](mailto:dwright@leelanau.gov)

**Contact for Fire & EMS:** Chief Bryan Ferguson  
6401 W. State St.  
Glen Arbor, MI 49636  
(231) 334-3279      **Cell: (231) 835-1243**  
[bryanferguson@glenlakefire.org](mailto:bryanferguson@glenlakefire.org)

**Contact for Other Services:** Matt Ansorge – Emergency Management  
Leelanau County EM/9-1-1  
(231) 256-8775      **Cell: (231) 432-0084**  
[mansorge@leelanau.gov](mailto:mansorge@leelanau.gov)

**DISPATCH CENTER:** (231) 256-8800      or      9-1-1

## **Event Summary**

This is the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Michigan Outback Relay which is a three-day summer weekend relay race through roughly 275 miles of the upper half of Michigan's lower peninsula. It is the longest and most challenging relay race of its kind in the nation; taking participants along the trails, hills, swamps, and beaches of Northern Michigan.

This event consists of teams of up to 10 runners, with one team member running at a time throughout the course. Teams can have less members, but the mileage responsibility per runner will increase. 60-70 teams are expected for this event, which translates to 60-70 runners on the course at any one time.

The course will traverse through trails along the AuSable and Manistee Rivers, up, down and around hills along the way, and even through swamps to take on the mosquitos, sand and mud.

"Course Marshal" teams will be on the course to monitor exchange sites where one runner transitions to another team member. The Course Marshals will also be stationed at road intersections along the course. Runners are not allowed to impede traffic and the Course Marshals will stop runners until it is safe to cross.

The relay will conclude at Johnson Park in Empire and an after-race celebration is planned. Pizza, Gatorade and water will be provided and every runner will receive a custom-made ceramic mug made by a Michigan potter. An awards ceremony will begin at 5:15pm and there will be trophies for teams in the open division and mixed division.

## **Traffic**

No roadways will be closed for the event. Participants must obey all traffic laws when encountering State, County, and secondary roads along the course.

## **Race Route**

Map will be attached at the end of this packet.

The Race Route will end in Leelanau County on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> and travels as follows:

Enter Leelanau County from the south on Rayle Rd and travel westbound on E Pettengill Rd. Continue westbound on Oviatt Rd and follow the roadway as it turns south into Benzie County west of S Benzonia Trl. The course will reenter Leelanau County as participants travel northbound on S Norconk Rd. The course will turn eastbound on W Stormer Rd, then northbound on S Leelanau Hwy (M-22), then quickly northbound on S Wilco Rd. S Wilco Rd will turn into S Lake St and the route will turn east on W Niagara, then quickly north on S Larue St and end at Johnson Park in the Village of Empire.

## Identification of Potential Hazards

Event Coordinators will be responsible for identifying any potential safety hazards or threats to race participants. Any hazards or threats must be taken care of prior to the start of the race.

## Event Communications

Course Marshal teams will utilize 800MHz radios provided by Chippewa County 911 and communicate on 17SPEV1. Chippewa County will not actively be monitoring this talk group, nor will any other Dispatch Center encompassed along the route. The Event Coordinator reports that 17SPEV1 has been utilized for event communications along this route for numerous years without issue. It is imperative for the Event Coordinator and Course Marshals to understand they may encounter unknown challenges with 800MHz communications and may need to rely on cellular communications in those instances. It is also imperative that the Event Coordinator and Course Marshals know to contact 9-1-1 in the event of any emergency or disaster along the route.

## Other

Race participants are expected to begin finishing at Johnson Park around noon. The event and after-race events should be complete by 7:00pm.

Event Coordinators and participants will need to call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency.

No Law Enforcement agencies will have dedicated personnel for this event. Law Enforcement from the Sheriff's Office will be patrolling the County throughout the County, as usual. In the event of a needed response from law enforcement, the closest unit will be sent.

No Fire & EMS agency will have dedicated personnel for this event. All Fire Departments listed above have been made aware of this event and will be ready to respond in the event of an emergency.

The National Weather Service is monitoring weather for this event and Bob Baril is their primary point-of-contact. If severe weather threatens Leelanau County during the event, they will notify Bob immediately. This will allow 30-45 minutes to make the necessary notifications and seek shelter from the potential threat. A dedicated weather link has been created and will be continually updated by the National Weather Service:

<https://www.weather.gov/forecastpoints?lat=44.8128434&lon=-86.06162839999999&clat=44.8128434&clon=-86.06162839999999&zoom=19&basemap=stamenterrain&layers=USStates|USCounties|ForecastDotDomain>

## **Sanitation Facilities**

Six port-a-johns will be placed in Johnson Park for the event.

## **Cleanup and Waste Disposal**

Dumpster is rented and placed in Johnson Park for the vent.

## **Vehicle Access and Parking Facilities**

Vehicles will be parked in Johnson Park at the directions of Lions Club members.