

MARSHFIELD COLUMBUS INVITE

53rd Annual Cross Country Invitational

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

WILDWOOD PARK - MARSHFIELD, WI

Dear Athletic Directors and Coaches,

The 53rd Annual Marshfield Columbus Cross Country Invitational will be held on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at Wildwood Park in Marshfield.

Race times are approximate, but every effort will be made to keep the meet on the schedule below. If weather becomes a challenging factor, races may be run ahead of schedule. Please have your teams prepared and remain flexible.

Please notify athletes and spectators that pets and tobacco products are strictly prohibited at the race site, in accordance with WIAA recommendations, and in the Wildwood Zoo area, in accordance with zoo policy. At the request of the animal caretakers, cowbells, vuvuzelas, and stadium horns are also prohibited.

MEET SCHEDULE

7:30-8:45 a.m. Course inspection

9:00 a.m. Middle School Race - all runners
Boys and girls will be separated in the chute for awards.

9:45 a.m. High School Girls Race - all runners

10:30 a.m. High School Boys Race - all runners

Following races Awards ceremony, weather permitting

12:00 p.m. Jeremy Binder 5K Memorial Run

We will need to remain on schedule so the invitational awards ceremony is completed before the noon open race.

JEREMY BINDER 5K MEMORIAL RUN

New this year, the Jeremy Binder 5K Memorial Run will begin at noon following the completion of the MCI. Athletes, coaches, families, alumni, supporters, and other members of each participating team's community are invited to take part.

The event is open to all ages and all paces, and same-day registration will also be available. The run honors Jeremy Binder, a 2015 graduate of Columbus Catholic High School, and supports cancer research. Additional registration information is included with the enclosed event flyer.

AWARDS

Team plaques

Boys and girls, small-school and large-school divisions

High school individual medals

1st through 10th place boys and girls, small-school and large-school divisions

COURSE

The course will remain the same as last year. It will challenge runners with short hills, wooded trails, and brief blacktop sections. Spikes are not recommended because of the blacktop portions.

Guide wires are located around the corners of the large animal pens. Please make your runners aware of them and adjust accordingly. Our signature water obstacle will return again this year.

RACE DISTANCES

High school girls and boys: 5 kilometers

Middle school girls and boys: 2 miles

TIMING, SCORING, AND ENTRIES

Chip timing will again be provided by Performance Timing, LLC. All entries must be submitted through Athletic.net. Each school may enter an unlimited number of runners, and the top eight runners from each school will be scored as varsity. Complete results will be available shortly after each race and posted online through Athletic.net.

ENTRY DEADLINE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, AT 12:00 NOON

PACKET PICKUP AND FINISH PROCEDURES

Upon arrival, coaches should report to the finish-line area to pick up their team packets.

Please instruct all runners to jog completely through the finish chute. The finish area can accommodate the size of our field, but runners must continue moving beyond the second timing mat to prevent congestion. Spectators are not permitted behind the flagging, near timing equipment, or in areas reserved for meet personnel.

COURSE LOCATION AND PARKING

Wildwood Park can best be reached by turning south from 14th Street onto Balboa Avenue and then turning east onto 17th Street. The park will be closed to traffic during the meet.

ENTRY FEES

High school	\$150 per school
Middle school	\$75 per school

Checks should be made payable to Columbus Catholic Schools and mailed to: Columbus Catholic Schools, 710 South Columbus Avenue, Marshfield, WI 54449. Please write MCI in the memo line.

Concessions will be available behind the old garage near the bear den on race day. Invitational T-shirts and other MCI merchandise will also be available for purchase.

We look forward to seeing your teams on Saturday, September 5, and celebrating another great year of cross country competition at Wildwood Park.

Best wishes,

Jim Nystrom

Race Director and Coach
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Lori Wieland

Athletic Director
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ENCLOSURES

Athletic.net entry instructions

High school 5K and middle school 2-mile course maps

Jeremy Binder 5K Memorial Run flyer

COURSE RECORDS

Boys 5K	Connor Olson, Wayzata, Minnesota - 15:22.7	2013
Girls 4K	Anna French, Wayzata, Minnesota - 14:24.2	2013
Girls 5K	Karstin McCabe, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin - 17:47.3	2025