FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **November 5, 2026**

87th ANNUAL PIAA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

1,629 runners set to compete. Six teams and six individuals will be crowned champions.

MECHANICSBURG - The 2026 PIAA Cross Country Championships are scheduled to be contested at Big Spring High School Cross Country Course, Newville, Pa on Saturday, November 7, 2026. This is the 87th Annual Cross Country Championship.

The PIAA Cross Country Championships will see 1,629 student-athletes competing, representing 91 1A girls' teams, 106 1A boys' teams, 99 2A girls' teams, 90 2A boys' teams, 90 3A girls' teams, and 94 3A boys' teams, for a total of 401 different teams from across the state.

In 1939, cross country was the sixth sport adopted by the PIAA. The championships have been held at nine different sites: Penn State University (1939-41, 1943-78, 1981, 1986-87, 1990, 1992, 1994-95, 1997-98), Altoona (1943), Fort Indiantown Gap (1979, 1988), Lehigh University (1980, 1982-85, 1989, 1993, 1999), Milton Hershey School (1991), Bucknell University (1996, 2000), HersheyPark Stadium White Field (2001-2005), Parkview Cross Country Course (2006-2025,) and Big Spring High School (present).

PIAA Cross Country Championships host sites:

49: Penn State University
19: Parkview CC Course
8: Lehigh University
5: Hersheypark Stadium White Field
2: Bucknell University
2: Fort Indiantown Gap
2: Milton Hershey
1: Altoona
1: Big Spring

At the inaugural PIAA Cross Country Championships in 1939, the first Team Champion was Altoona High School, scoring 67 points and narrowly edging out Norristown High School by one point. Boys' cross country began with one classification, 3A. It wasn't until 1963 that the sport split into two classifications: 2A and 3A. The first girls' championship was in 1975, starting with two classifications, right out the gates. Nearly four decades later, in 2012 cross country expanded two three classifications for both girls and boys.

North Allegheny has won the most championships with 16 in the 3A boys' classification. The lowest score by a boys' team was Mt. Lebanon scoring 27 points in 1944 and the lowest score by a girls' team was Brentwood scoring 22 points in 1975.

The championships were held at Parkview Cross Country Course from 2006 to 2025. Parkview

used to be an 18-hole golf course before the expansion of the Giant Center. With the weather changing the conditions of the course, it has been modified a few times, so there wasn't an official course record.

The 2026 Championships have moved to a new location. For the first time, runners will line up at the start of the Big Spring High School Country Course. This newly constructed course features a long straightaway before the first turn to help runners position themselves. After the first turn, spectators can follow the pack to the 1,000K mark before entering the woods part of the course. Before hosting the PIAA Championships, Big Spring has a long list of collegiate races. They have even hosted the NCAA Division III National Championships in 2023 and the site of six Division III Mid-Atlantic Regional Meets.

3A Boys Team Champions: Tie in 1941 with Altoona and Mt. Lebanon

30 - 3A Boys' teams have won titles; Council Rock has won the most consecutive titles with four.

16: North Allegheny (1960-62, 1965, 1968, 1970-71, 1974, 1980, 1997, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2020-22)
12: Mt. Lebanon (1941, 1943-45, 1950, 1952-53, 1956-59, 1998)
10: Council Rock (1987-89, 1991-95, 1999, 2016)
6: West Chester Henderson (1996, 2002-03, 2009, 2012-13), State College (1963, 1976, 1978, 1984, 1986, 2024)
4: Altoona (1939, 1941, 1951, 1954), North Penn (2007-08, 2011, 2025)
2: Coatesville (2000, 2006), Cedar Cliff (2001, 2004), Downingtown West (2015, 2019)
1: Reading (1940), Aliquippa (1946), New Castle (1948), Ambridge (1949), Hickory (1955), Baldwin (1964), Warren (1966), Gateway (1967, 1982), Penn Hills (1969, 1972), Norwin (1973), William Tennent (1975), Punxsutawney (1977), North Hills (1979), Abington Heights (1981), Seneca Valley (1983), Bethel Park (1985), Central Catholic (1990), West Chester East (2005), La Salle College (2017), Council Rock North (2023)

2A Boys Team Champions: Tie in 1972 between Bellevue and Annville-Cleona

34 - 2A Boys' teams have won titles; Scranton Prep had an outstanding stretch in the early 2000s winning five titles in six years and also Twin Valley early 1990s – winning five titles in seven years.

5: North East (1971, 1982, 1987-88, 2007), Twin Valley (1989, 1991-92, 1994-95), Scranton Prep (2000-02, 2004-05)
4: Neshannock (1969-70, 1975-76), Annville-Cleona (1972-74, 1977)
3: Exeter (1964, 1967-68), Greencastle-Antrim (1980-81, 1986), Lewisburg Area (2019-21)
2: York Catholic (1983, 1985), Union City (1996-97), Elk Lake (2008, 2010), York Suburban (2009, 2014), Dallas (2015-16), Grove City (2022, 2024)
1: Swarthmore (1963), Abington Heights (1965), Spring Grove (1966), Bellevue (1972), West York (1978), Meyers (1979), Oswayo Valley (1984), Hershey (1990), Lansdale Catholic (1993), St. Pius X (1998), Bishop Hafey (1999), Eisenhower (2003), West Middlesex (2006), Quaker Valley (2011), Pottsgrove (2012), Tunkhannock Area (2013), Wyomissing (2017), Greensburg Salem (2018), Hampton (2023), Hughesville (2025)

1A Boys Team Champions:

10 - 1A Boys' teams have won titles.

4: Winchester Thurston (2014, 2016, 2019, 2024)
2: Jenkintown (2018, 2020)
1: Northeast Bradford (2012), Saegertown (2013), Camp Hill (2015), Penns Valley (2017), Hughesville (2021), Central Cambria (2022), Annville-Cleona (2023), Elk Lake (2025)

3A Girls Team Champions:

22 - 3A Girls' teams have won titles; North Allegheny has won the most consecutive titles with six.

9: North Allegheny (1975, 1998-99, 2018-23)
5: State College (1979-81, 1991, 1994), Pennsbury (2010-12, 2014-15)
3: Council Rock (1976, 1978, 1984), Altoona (1982-83, 1988), Williamsport (1986-87, 1991)
2: Chambersburg (1977, 1989), Solanco (1990, 1997), Kiski Area (1995-96), Hatboro-Horsham (2002-03), Unionville (2004, 2013)
1: Abington (1985), Greensburg Salem (1993), Parkland (2000), Allentown Central Catholic (2001), Greater Latrobe (2005), Radnor (2006), Emmaus (2007-09), Cardinal O'Hara (2016), Fox Chapel (2017), Haverford (2024), Norwin (2025)

2A Girls Team Champions:

25 - 2A Girls' teams have won titles: Perkiomen Valley and Wyomissing are tied for winning the most consecutive titles with four.

5: Perkiomen Valley (1978-81, 1984)
4: North East (1982-83, 1987, 1989), Wyomissing (1999-02) Central Cambria (2007-09, 2018)
3: Danville (1991, 2017, 2023), Dallas (2003, 2005, 2013), Saint Basil Academy (2004, 2006, 2011), Villa Maria (10) (2014-16), Cathedral Prep (2022, 2024-25)
2: Titusville (1977, 1994), Ellwood City (1992-93), Brookville (1995-96)
1: Brentwood (1975), Mars (1976), Greencastle-Antrim (1985), Chief Logan (1986), Richland (1988), Gwynedd Mercy (1990), Wellsboro (1997), Hanover Area (1998), Elk Lake (2010), Palmyra (2012), South Fayette (2019), Warrior Run (2020), Montour (2021)

1A Girls Team Champions:

11 – 1A Girls' teams have won titles: St. Joesph's Catholic and Notre Dame Green Pond are tied for winning the most consecutive titles with two.

3: St. Joseph's Catholic (2015-16, 2019)
2: Notre Dame Green Pond (2021-22)
1: Elk Lake (2012), Holy Cross (2013), Central Cambria (2014), Fairview (2017), Marion Center (2018), Penns Valley (2020), Elk County Catholic (2023), Cranberry (2024), Shady Side Academy (2025)

All media are asked to familiarize yourself with the PIAA Handbook, Section II Policy and Procedures, pages 97-104: http://tinyurl.com/5a3h7wyk. The championship schedule can be found here and a full list of any previous championship results.

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Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association

Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition, and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.