

Viewing locations for Race 4 (Nordic Mtn, Mt. Morris)

Nordic is a super fun course for spectators. Lots of easy viewing spots as the course essentially surrounds the Venue. You can see the whole course from the parking lot, so there will be easy navigating to viewing spots. For the riders, the course is more or less uphill both ways. All the downhills are tight corners with no way to carry momentum. Climbers should love it (it is a ski hill, after all). Put on some good running shoes, this is gonna be fun... so much fun, I've got 2 pages worth of notes!

Notes about this venue:

- Access to the Camping area requires you to cross the course with your vehicle. During the race, there'll be a course marshal to help out at that spot... but there likely won't be one for Pre-Ride. Watch out for riders coming through!
- Nordic Mtn is in the middle of nowhere. Wautoma is the closest town at 15-20 minutes, but there isn't all that much there, and it'll be crowded with the influx of riders and families. Bring everything you need! Food, water, tailgating equipment...
- We're camping in a field on potentially water-logged ground. This isn't like the other ones with firm soil/gravel. It's not a swamp, but expect softer ground if you're pulling a trailer.
- Mosquitoes have been a problem here. Bring extra bugspray.
- It's a pretty good hike from Camping to the main venue/pitzone/food/awards area. Just a head's up.
- If it's wet, you'll want rubber boots.
- The map is printed like any ski-hill map, so "up"="uphill". Nothing to do with North/South, and the scale is questionable at best.

Spot 1:

Just after the start, there's a nice dip that will invariably suck up some riders. Still double track, moving fast as a pack. Tons of cheering. GOGOGOGOGO!!!!

Spot 2:

In-and-out of the trees. Catch the riders twice here. FAST run from S1 to make it to the tree-entry, but you can do it. You may need to pause along the way if you aren't quick enough as they rip across the parking lot. You'll see them coming. If dry, there could be washouts as the riders are cornering among varying surfaces.

Spot 3:

Park yerself anywhere along this long, gentle climb. Easy walk from S1 (you can even catch them quick in the parking lot on your way). Riders that got hung up in the long single track will be passing on this climb, trying to make up ground. Should be some good photo-ops here. Definitely some suffering on multi-lappers.

Spot 4:

Holy cow, is this a crazy spot! There is some super tight, downhill, in-the-trees, squirrely riding before a punishing short climb. Really, really fun to watch them navigate through here. Easy walk from anywhere. Just up the ski run from S1. May need to hustle from S3. Don't dawdle here if you want to see the finish, though. After your rider comes through, head on down to the Finish Line. EDIT: it's also possible to leapfrog to the next downhill... and the next... on the way to S8. sprinting, but possible.

Spot 5:

Lots of spots to watch in the trees here. More single-track climbing with roots and rocks and all things messy. Better spot to just sit and watch. Great spot for a hammock. Again, bring bug spray.

Spot 6:

Easy access at a side parking lot. Riders pop out of the trees and duck back in. Fun for pictures if you're in the area, but it is kinda out of the way.

Spot 7:

Anywhere in this winding singletrack will be a great spot to catch riders multiple times from many directions. Probably tough to get out of quickly if you're trying to watch other spots. Plan on sitting in here for a while and watching all the riders. First Lap only.

Spot 8:

Short double-track spot with a little rise that is almost impossible to *not* get air. The kids love this little hump... then, a sharp, uphill turn that will take them out if its wet. Another great photo-op if you want to catch riders with their tires off the ground (not that NICA encourages any of that kind of behavior...).

Spot 9:

Camping area. Once again, the course goes around Camping. If you're packing up, watch for your riders. Give them a holler. They'll be pretty spread out by the time they get here.

FINISH LINE:

I haven't been giving many notes on the Start/Finish areas, because they're so obviously great areas to watch from. This one, in particular, has a rather long, gentle uphill run-in with many opportunities to catch riders finishing. It's pretty open in this area, and you should be able to spot them from a distance. There will certainly be some great, last second finishes, which is always exciting.

