

Philadelphia CYO Cross Country

To: CYO Cross Country Coaches & Parents
From: CYO Cross Country Committee
Date: 9/11/18
Re: Parking at Belmont Plateau

All –

Our CYO Cross Country program is unique in its size and our competition structure. It is very rare to have so many large cross country meets on a regular basis, with the same group of competitors week after week at the same location. The size of our league is a great testament to our coaches, volunteers, and leadership, but presents certain challenges that other youth cross country or running programs do not face.

One such challenge is facing us this season. Hopefully, you are all aware by now of the major restrictions on parking that have been reinforced by the Philadelphia Parks Department. While we have consistently reminded our coaches and parents every year that parking is not permitted on the grass, inevitably, many cars have in fact parked on the grass and apparently have parked illegally on Belmont Mansion Drive over the years. This is a problem that we have tried, unsuccessfully, to solve in the past.

While applying for the permit to use Belmont this year, we were informed that parking had become such a major issue that structural and permit changes were needed to continue to have use of the Plateau. The major changes are as follows:

- **PARKING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON THE GRASS NEAR OR ALONG THE CURB OF THE ACCESS ROAD THAT LEADS TO THE MAINTENANCE SHED / WOODS ENTRANCE**
 - This is the major junction for emergency medical vehicles and presents a serious issue every meet.
 - Parking on the grass has ALWAYS been illegal, but rarely have cars been ticketed.
 - A Park Ranger will be stationed on the access road to block traffic. Only Meet Management Personnel will be permitted to park near the finish line.

- PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE NORTHWEST (WOODS) SIDE OF BELMONT MANSION DRIVE
 - This is in keeping with PA / Philadelphia law.
 - This will be enforced (tickets are \$101 when issued)
 - Failure to abide by this rule may result in the permit being pulled OR Belmont Mansion Drive being shut down completely

- PARKING IS PERMITTED IN ALL OF THE LOTS ADJACENT TO THE PLAYING FIELDS, AT THE TOP OF FLAGPOLE (ACROSS FROM THE MANSION) AND ALONG BELMONT MANSION DRIVE ON THE PARKSIDE (WHERE THERE IS A CURB!)

- ADDITIONAL LOTS ARE AVAILABLE ON S. CHAMOUNIX DRIVE AND AT THE MANN MUSIC CENTER (ON THE GRASS)
 - A Shuttle Bus will run on a continuous loop between S. Chamounix, Mann, and Belmont Plateau. It will not pull into the parking lot, but will stop on Belmont Mansion drive and let out passengers.
 - THE SHUTTLE IS FREE
 - THE SHUTTLE WILL BEGIN RUNNING AT 11:30 AM AND WILL END AT 4:30PM
 - Parking is permitted on S. Chamounix drive where there is a curb

- PARENTS AND COACHES CAN DROP OFF THOSE WITH DISABILITIES OR EQUIPMENT (LIKE TENTS) BY PULLING INTO THE ARMY ROAD LOT (CONCESSION STAND LOT) AND LOOPING AROUND THE END OF THE PARKING LOT. **PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF CHILDREN OR ATHLETES UNATTENDED**

- RANGERS OR SECURITY WILL BE POSTED AT THE S. CHAMOUNIX LOT, ARMY ROAD LOT, MANN MUSIC CENTER, and AT THE ACCESS ROAD

- PHILADELPHIA CYO CROSS COUNTRY IS NOW A “SPECIAL EVENT”. We have applied to have a food vendor on site, but other, unauthorized grilling is now prohibited. Smoking is also prohibited on the Plateau.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL OF THESE CHANGES AND THE ACCOMPANYING MAP WITH YOUR TEAMS! As we discussed at the coaches meeting, there are a lot of changes happening very rapidly. We always welcome constructive criticism and new ideas, but it is important to remember this is a volunteer program. We have a very limited number of volunteers working every week and that limits our ability to make major changes, especially in a short period of time. We will review the year and seek to optimize the experience for everyone in the offseason.

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE THIS YEAR!