

What to expect at a WIJARA Race

Friday: Leave during the day (usually immediately after school) and drive to the hotel. Most races are around 6 hours +/- drive time from St. Louis, including stopping to eat. Try and get to bed by a reasonable time (11:00 for older kids or earlier, up to parents).

Saturday: Get up in time to arrive at the hill by around 7:30 (usually leave hotel between 7:00 & 7:15). As soon as you arrive at the hill, get your lift tickets (for both days) and racers get your boots on and get ready to go. Sat. is GS, scheduled for 2 races of two runs each, but often shortened to 1 run on at least the 2nd race. Race course inspection for the racers is usually from around 8:00 until 8:45. Coaches will gather the racers together to inspect with them. Races start around 9:00 and the race order is usually J3,J2,J1 Girls then J3,J2,J1 Boys on one course and J4,J5,J6 Girls then J4,J5,J6 Boys on the other course, but check the Info Sheet for that race for changes, or ask a coach. Racers can free ski between runs, but need to check in with the coaches or parents at the start house to make sure they don't miss their start. Usually there is time for lunch between the 1st and 2nd race. Races usually end about 3:00 - 4:00, medal awards are afterwards. Return to hotel around 5:00 - 6:00, go to dinner, kids swim, in bed again by around 11:00 at latest, again up to parents.

Parents are expected to help out, usually by gatekeeping. At your 1st race you will usually be there with an experienced gatekeeper to learn what's required. So bring warm clothes for standing in the cold, and, if you aren't skiing, boots to walk up the hill in the snow.

Sunday: Repeat Saturday, except - pack up for trip home when leaving hotel but you can arrive at the hill a little later since you will already have lift ticket. Races will be slalom, 2 races of 1 run each. Inspection with the coach is more important with slalom. Same start time but should finish both races by 1:00-2:00. Kids usually eat after their second race. Some folks leave before the awards on Sunday in order to get home before too late.

Sound like fun? Actually, it is and the kids (and parents) get to know one another better and have a good time. Once they start, most folks continue traveling and racing.