



COFFIN CUP FAQs

So...you're thinking about entering a team? Excellent! We promise this is one of the few sporting events where racing a coffin through downtown Crown Point is not only acceptable – it's encouraged! Here are answers to some of our most frequently asked questions:

WHAT IS THE COFFIN CUP?

The Coffin Cup is a charity race during the city of Crown Point's Fall Festival, where teams race "coffin racers" down Main Street for ultimate bragging rights and a cash prize to the charity of their choice.

Several other cities and towns have hosted coffin races, and the draw is substantial. It's a fun, creative competition and Crown Point is eager to get in on the excitement!

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ENTER?

Absolutely nothing to enter! There is no registration fee. Your only expense is building (or purchasing) your coffin racer. Each team must either:

- Represent a registered non-profit organization, or
- Choose a non-profit organization for which they'll be racing.

This event is all about having fun while supporting great causes in our community!

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO WE NEED ON OUR TEAM?

Each team consists of 6 people: **4 PUSHERS** - these are your primary racers who will push the coffin. **1 ALTERNATE PUSHER** - just in case one of your racers can't compete because of injury or another issue. *If an alternate is needed, simply notify the race officials before you race.*

1 "GHOST RIDER" - This brave soul gets to ride inside the coffin. Their official responsibilities include looking fabulous, waving to the crowd, and enjoying the ride. Dramatic screaming is optional but highly encouraged.

HOW LONG IS THE RACE?

Approximately 100 yards. Racers will travel south on Main Street from the Historic Courthouse. The course is perfectly straight, so no steering mechanism is required. Teams will race two at a time, and the two fastest times will then compete against each other for the championship.

DO OUR TEAM PARTICIPANTS NEED TO BE STAFF MEMBERS?

No, absolutely not. Get out there and find some strong, fast runners to join your team if you wish.

WHAT DO WE WIN, *besides everlasting bragging rights*?

Your team is playing for charity - the *fastest* team will win \$2,500 towards their charity of choice. The team who wins the *Spirited Award* (create a theme, decorate your racer, dress up, etc.) will win \$500 towards their charity of choice.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT ON RACE DAY?

Here's what the race day looks like on Saturday, October 24:

11:30 AM - Team check-in at First United Methodist Church CP -- Safety Check of coffins

Noon - Mandatory Meeting for all team members - review of rules, etc.

12:15 PM - COFFIN PARADE: Every team will parade their coffin North on Main Street to the Square. This is your chance to show off your costumes, decorations and team spirit!

1:00 PM - Racing Begins! Heats begin at 3:00 sharp. The best two teams will then compete head-to-head for the championship race.

FAQS CONTINUED

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR COFFIN RACER:

The wheels cannot be larger than 10", the handles and the swivel caster wheels must be well-secured to the base. You must have 4 wheels. The length of the racer must be between 5 - 8 feet, the width must be between 2 - 4 feet. Racers are powered by runners only. Coffin must be secured firmly to the base.

HOW DO WE BUILD A RACER?

Good news! You don't need to be a master carpenter to build a coffin racer.

Your racer has 2 parts:

THE BASE

- Wheels
- Push bars
- Structural frame
- Mounting surface for the coffin

THE COFFIN

- Can be built from plywood
- Can purchase online
- Can be constructed from other sturdy materials
- MUST be securely attached to your base

WHAT IF WE NEED HELP BUILDING OUR RACER?

We've got you covered! Our friends at Operation Charlie Bravo, a wonderful Northwest Indiana Veterans organization, can build a professionally-constructed base for you. This is a steel base (structural frame, wheels, push bars).

Thanks to generous sponsors, we're able to loan these bases FREE to the first 3 teams that reserve one. After those are spoken for, additional bases will be available for \$250. If you buy one of these, you can use it year after year - it is STURDY!

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT HAVING FUN WITH IT?

Once your racer is built, GET CREATIVE! Decorate your coffin. Dress your team. Create an unforgettable theme. Turn yourselves into zombies, vampires, ghosts, superheroes, pirates, mad scientists – or whatever will help you bury the competition in the *Spirited Award*, a \$500 award to your favorite charity. Need inspiration? Search "coffin races" online and you'll find hundreds of amazing ideas from races across the country.

HOW CAN YOU ENTER A TEAM?

Fill out the Team Entry Form in this packet. Scan/email to cpcoffincup@gmail.com, or mail (or drop off) to First United Methodist Church, 352 S. Main St., Crown Point, IN 46307. **PLEASE NOTE: There are a limited number of teams who can participate**, so get your entry in early!

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email: cpcoffincup@gmail.com

Contact Pastor Mark Wilkins @ First United Methodist Church: 219-663-1515

We can't wait to see what your team creates! So gather your friends, build something outrageous, choose a great non-profit to support ...and prepare to race your way into Crown Point Coffin Cup history!



CORPORATE SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorships are available for this highly anticipated event

HOW CORPORATE SPONSORS BENEFIT

Branding: Your business name will be listed on promotional items (online, t-shirts, event day signs, City of Crown Point website, event T-shirts, etc.).

Staff involvement: Get your staff involved the day of the event! We will have various volunteer opportunities that day, a true team-building and community outreach experience.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- ☐ **Undertaker** (\$2,000 & above) - All branding opportunities, plus your business highlighted via stand-alone signage and broadcast mentions during the event. Special mentions on social media leading up to the event.
- ☐ **Six Feet Underwriter** (\$1,000 - \$1,999) - All branding opportunities, plus your business highlighted via sponsorship banner during the event. Social media spotlights leading up to the event.
- ☐ **Pallbearer** (\$300 - \$999) - All branding opportunities, plus your business highlighted during the event. Social media spotlights leading up the event.
- ☐ **Skeleton Crew** (\$250) - Sponsor a team's racer construction and your business will be announced as a team's Skeleton Crew sponsor.

Name of business: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to FUMC Crown Point

☐ Yes! I'm also interested in some of my staff members volunteering at the event. Please contact me to coordinate.

☐ REQUIRED: I have emailed a high-res logo to: cpcoffincup@gmail.com

Drop off or mail this form to **First United Methodist Church Crown Point**
352 S. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307



COFFIN CUP RULES & INFORMATION

RACE ROUTE

The race will take place on Main Street in Crown Point. Racers will park and stage at the First United Methodist Church (352 S. Main St.), and teams will process towards the square before the race in the **Coffin Parade**. During this time our announcer will introduce the teams, so teams are encouraged to bring their theatrics!

The race will start near the Square and travel south. The race is approximately 100 yards long.

THE RACE

The race will take place two teams at a time until all teams have raced. Races will be timed, and the two fastest teams will compete head-to-head for the championship race.

COFFIN CUP RULES

1. **The coffin racers must be built to the following specifications:** The wheels cannot be larger than 10", the handles and the swivel caster wheels must be well-secured to the base. You must have 4 wheels. The length of the racer must be between 5 - 8 feet, the width must be between 2 - 4 feet. Racers are powered by runners only. Coffin must be secured firmly to the base.
2. Each team must provide four runners (and one alternate) to propel the coffin. At least three of the four runners must be in direct contact with the coffin at all times during the race. Any coffin that has less than three runners in direct contact with the coffin during the race will be deemed 'out of control' and will be immediately disqualified. Changing runners or drivers during or between a heat is prohibited. In case of injury, a race official shall be the authority to allow a substitute.
3. Runners and Ghost Riders must be 18 years of age or older, unless approved in advance by the Coffin Cup Committee. Email the committee: cpcoffincup@gmail.com
4. During the race, runners will keep their coffin in their own lane. Runners/and/or coffins interfering with another runner/and or coffin as a result of leaving their lane (crossing the center line) will be immediately disqualified.
5. Each team shall have one "Ghost" to ride in their coffin. It is recommended "Ghost Riders" wear a protective helmet during the race, though it is not required. Runners are encouraged to wear protective gear as well.
6. Each participant must sign a "Hold Harmless agreement" at event registration, holding the City of Crown Point harmless for any accidents or injuries.
7. All coffins, runners and "Ghosts" must be in the staging area by 11:30 AM to compete, and they must attend a mandatory instructional meeting at Noon.
8. A pre-race run-down will take place just before the pre-race parade, all participants are expected to pay attention to the important information.
9. Every entrant and participant must conduct themselves according to the highest standards of behavior and sportsmanship. No alcohol will be allowed on the premises.



TEAM ENTRY FORM

You might be a little bit crazy, and we're grateful. You're racing for charity, and for the ultimate bragging rights.

THERE IS NO FEE TO ENTER

THE CROWN POINT COFFIN CUP - OCTOBER 24, 2026

11:30 Staging
Noon Participant Meeting
12:15 Coffin Parade
1:00 Race Begins

Date _____ Team Name _____

Charity Organization we're supporting _____

Contact/Team Captain _____ Contact Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Names of four runners plus one alternate 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ ALT _____

Name of Coffin Rider (Ghost Rider) _____

If you don't have all of your names yet, write TBD (to be determined)

Email this completed form to cpcoffincup@gmail.com

-or- Drop off this form to **First United Methodist Church Crown Point**
352 S. Main St. Crown Point 219-663-1515

Registration forms must be received by **Monday, October 5, 2026**. This is also the deadline for any team to withdraw from the race.

☐ We will build our coffin racer according to Coffin Cup specifications (*see rules*)

-OR-

☐ We will pay \$250 to have our coffin racer base built, and we will build basic walls and decorate it. We will mail or include a check, payable to FUMC Crown Point

-OR-

☐ We will find a Skeleton Crew sponsor to cover the cost to build our racer (see more information about this on the Corporate Sponsorship page).

We agree our coffin racer will be inspected prior to the race, and if our racer does not meet safety requirements, we will not be able to race. We will adhere to the full and complete rules attached to this form.

Signature of Contact

Date

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TEAM ENTRY FORM CONTINUED

As your team is announced during the pre-race Coffin Parade, let us know some more about your team:

Whether you are a non-profit organization or racing for one, why is this non-profit important?

If you are a business racing for a non-profit, tell us about your business:

What is your team's theme? What will we expect to see?

Shout out to any other people who helped with your racer/team?

How do you plan to bury the competition?

Anything else to add?