

Luther College Legends Invite

Saturday, October 10th, 2026 -- Luther XC Course

Schedule / Races

11:00 AM Women's "Tricia Serres" 4K
11:30 AM Men's "Kent Finanger" 4K
12:15 PM Awards Ceremony (near the finish area, women then men)

Teams expected for 2026

Luther, Augsburg, Gustavus, UM-Morris, Univ St. Thomas (w), Upper Iowa (w)

Course

Trails through woods and prairie provide a unique cross country course on Luther's campus. The surface is grass or dirt trails, and grass playing fields. Course map: coming soon. We are planning for the route of the course to be one large 4k loop, which will include one defining hill. The following intermediate distances will be marked on the course: 1K, 1600m, 2K, 3K, 3200m, 4K.

Entries / Fees / Timing / Results / Awards

Timing/results by Wazata Results. Entries via Direct Athletics. Please complete entries by 8pm on Wed, Oct 7th, 2026. Entry fee is \$100 per gender, or \$20 per individual. Payment can be made online with entries. If paying by cash/check, just let me know in advance. Awards will be given to the top-ten finishers in each race, and the top finisher for each team, at most one award per individual.

Parking

Park in the lot on the north side of the Gerdin Fieldhouse. The XC start/finish/camps area is NE of the competition soccer pitch.

Indoor Facilities

Visiting teams are welcome to use the visiting locker rooms in the Gerdin Fieldhouse (athletic building) for changing, additional restrooms, and showers. As a weather backup, the North Gym of Gerdin will be open for team camps and awards.

Dining

Buffet lunch is available at the "Luther Caf" until about 1:30pm, pay by credit-card at the door. For more details, contact <diningservices@luther.edu>. In town, a couple sit-down options for groups are "Mabe's Pizza" and "Toppling Goliath Brewery." The "Old Armory BBQ" has good BBQ sandwiches, eat-in or to-go. More Decorah-area dining options: <https://visitdecorah.com>

Titles of the Races

Our intent is for the titles of the races each year to honor two of Luther XC's women's/men's "Legends." This year's honorees:

Tricia Serres (Luther '16) was a two-time All-American in cross country, 9-time All-American in track, and won the D3 national title at 1500m. She was known for her tremendous work ethic, a positive and 'can-do' personality. As a neat side-note with the 4k, as a high-schooler Tricia won the Luther All-American high school race in a course-record time of 14:38, which still stands. Tricia also ran 14:02 in her only collegiate 4k XC race, which happened to be on the same weekend (Sat, Oct 12th, 2013) as this meet. Tricia will be inducted into the Luther's Athletic HOF this fall.

Kent Finanger (Luther '54) -- there is no person more special in the history of Luther Cross Country than "Coach Kent." He led Luther Men's Cross Country for 28 years (1969-1996), and helped launch the Luther College women's cross country program in 1975. He coached 17 men's teams to the national cross country championships, including a team that won the NCAA D3 national title in 1985. More valuable than the championships, "Coach Kent" had a legendary gift for uplifting others and helping them feel valued. Kent Finanger passed away this past summer at the age of 93.