



AIR FORCE JROTC UNIT GA-052  
WHEELERHIGH SCHOOL  
375 HOLT RD NE  
MARIETTA, GA 30068



February 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL JROTC RAIDER TEAMS

FROM: AFJROTC UNIT GA-052

SUBJECT: Wheeler Wildcat Raider Challenge Overview

1. **PURPOSE.** The inaugural Wheeler Wildcat Raider Challenge is set to take place on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at Wheeler High School in Marietta, Georgia. Raiders from all JROTC programs are most welcome. This document serves as the Letter of Instruction (LOI).
2. **CONCEPT.** The competition features 5 events: **1.5-mile Team Run | One-Rope Bridge | Physical Training Test (PTT) | Tire Flip | Gauntlet/Cross Country Rescue (CCR)**
  - a. Top 3 teams in each event are rewarded Guidon streamers; the top 3 teams overall, per division (male, mixed, female), are awarded trophies.
  - b. The Raider team with the fastest time and fewest penalties wins the event, with rankings determined accordingly. The overall division winner(s) is the team with the lowest cumulative ranking across all 5 events.
3. **REGISTRATION:** Schools may register 4 teams (max 2 per division) by Friday, August 7, 2026. To register, email [Thomas.butler@cobbk12.org](mailto:Thomas.butler@cobbk12.org). Fees: \$125 for the first team, \$35 per additional team. Advance payment is preferred, but same-day payment is accepted. Make checks payable to Wheeler HS AFJROTC. Find the registration form in Annex A.
4. **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.** Coaches and commanders' meeting will begin at 0800 in the Performing Arts Center (PAC), followed by the 1.5-mile team run at 0845. The remaining 4 events start at 0930 and will run until all teams finish. The award ceremony will take place near the Tire Flip field shortly after the competition concludes.
5. **EVENTS.** The Wildcat Raider consists of 5 events that are designed with minimal chance for penalty. Teams may recon the sites prior to the start of the competition. Wheeler will have all school teams competing at the same location for coaches and guest support convenience.
  - a. **Team Run.** The 1.5-mile team run begins at 0830 with teams in a column of one starting every 120 seconds on the stadium track to hard surface road to cross country trail and back. A 10-yard finish box is enforced. Uniform: Running shorts & shoes or ABU/OCPs with boots are authorized.
  - b. **Rope Bridge.** Course has 4 telephone poles placed 70 feet apart (dead zone) across 2 lanes, allowing simultaneous runs for all divisions. Raider rope bridge rules apply (FM 3-97.61, TC 90-6-1, & 6th BDE HQs Raider SOP, 2018). Uniform: ABU/OCPs with boots.
  - c. **Physical Training Test (PTT).** Teams complete a 200 yard out-and-back course as quickly as possible, tackling challenges like navigating a maze, tire dancing, carrying weighted items (water jugs, canoe), & vaulting over obstacles. Teams will pair up in two, 5-person groups & negotiate course challenges. The second group of 5 repeats the course backwards, resetting equipment. Raiders do not need to stay together but must finish together. Uniform: ABU/ OCPs with boots.

d. Tire Flip. This event is approximately a 60-yard course. Raider teams will pair up in two, 5-person groups & flip a tire weighing 300 – 700 lbs. (female/mixed/male) a total of 30 yards. The first group of 5 begins from the start line and flips the tire to the midpoint at 30 yards, & the second group flips it back to the start/finish line & past the designated markers. All 5 Raiders must touch the tire per flip with no one in front of tire for safety. Uniform: ABU/OCPs with boots.

e. Gauntlet/Cross Country Rescue (CCR). Gauntlet is a .16-mile timed confidence course, featuring a 7-ft wall climb, monkey bars, low crawl, rope swing, 9-ft rope climb, belly buster, wooded terrain challenges, & ends with a suspended tire. Next, in CCR, teams carry 4 weighted rucksacks (25lbs.) & stretcher (110lbs. males/mixed, 90lbs. female) over .42 miles, simulating a casualty transport before completing a circuit run back to the starting location. Upon returning to CCR start, Raiders repeat Gauntlet in reverse for .58 miles. Uniform: ABU/OCP with boots.

6. MISCELLANEOUS. Please kindly park in designated parking areas, especially for buses. Concessions will be available for purchase. Instructors should plan to bring a stopwatch for each team competing in the 1.5-mile team run. Competition specific instructions include:

- Upon arrival, instructors **must** check in at the [Performing Arts Center \(PAC\)](#). Teams will be verified and any outstanding payments settled and covenant not to sue forms collected.
- Teams get a packet with score sheets, round robin schedule matrix, & Raider wristbands.
- Each team can have up to 12 Raiders, with 10 competing per event. Cadets may compete on only one team, with no cross-team substitution.
- Female division includes 8-12 Raiders, with 8-10 competing per event per team strategy.
- Mixed teams must have at least 4 female competitors per event, with up to 9 allowed.
- Equipment care is mandatory—damaged or neglected gear may result in penalties.
- Only competing Raiders are allowed on event courses; spectators must remain in designated areas. Photographers may access courses if they do not interfere.
- Judges will provide clear briefings, enforce standardized scoring, and assess penalties. All concerns should be directed to Wheeler SASI by the coach/instructor.
- Teams follow the round-robin schedule to avoid delays; withdrawals should be reported.
- Course markers must be followed--straying may result in disqualification.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct incurs penalties/disqualification & applies to coaches/parents.
- A medic will be on-site, report injuries to event officials for emergency response | [Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center](#) is about 1.1 miles away.
- Hydration is crucial. Teams should bring water, ice, and shade tents.
- Severe weather halts competition, but rain will not unless safety is compromised. Lightning within 6 miles, will sound airhorn directing attendees to seek shelter (gym, etc.)
- Time permitting, we plan to have an ultimate male/female Raider competition at conclusion of the team events—pick your school’s best male/female Raider. Details forthcoming.

7. Contact me at [Thomas.butler@cobbk12.org](mailto:Thomas.butler@cobbk12.org) or (229) 834-0297 if you have questions.



THOMAS S. BUTLER, Col, USAF (retired)  
Senior Aerospace Science Instructor

ANNEX A: [Registration Form](#)

ANNEX B: [Covenant Not to Sue Form](#)

ANNEX C: [Competition Brief](#) | [Video](#)

ANNEX D: [Wheeler High School Map](#)