

# TAOS COMPOSITE

## HIGH SCHOOL MTB TEAM



**Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> season of Taos Composite High School Mountain Bike Team!** This is a cross-country mountain bike team that is part of the Colorado League's South Conference Piedra Region. We were the first National Interscholastic Cycling Association team in New Mexico and are based right here in the Enchanted Circle region. We welcome high school mountain bikers of all levels and backgrounds from all area high schools as well as homeschoolers. We are a diverse and inclusive co-ed team with scholarships assistance available to athletes needing financial support. We have several coaches, ride leaders and volunteers ready to roll and are always looking for more. We are looking for sponsor support as well to continue making this team accessible to all.

2020 was a unique season for Taos Composite due to the pandemic. We were lucky to be able to ride as a team locally and still improve, connect, and have fun. Please know that our number one priority continues to be the health and safety of our athletes, coaches, families, and the community. We will make all decisions accordingly.

**Why join?** Taos Composite has much to offer: as a team we learn skills quickly, receive valuable coaching, and inspire each other to achieve. We set goals and work collaboratively to not only attain these goals, but to also develop a wide range of effective skills. When you ride with a team, it makes riding and training FUN instead of hard work! The improvement comes quickly and steadily and soon after that – your racing results vastly improve. Most importantly is that this team is about having fun while setting goals, improving skills, and achieving personal bests. This a cross-country mountain bike team, a specific form of cycling which is different from road riding, downhill, enduro, dual slalom, trials, BMX, cyclocross, and track racing. Cross-country mountain biking includes a broad range of skills and team members often bring with them backgrounds and skills gained from other sports. This team's activities are focused upon preparing for and racing at cross-country mountain biking events. The coaching staff's highest goal is to provide students that have the desire to mountain bike the direction and camaraderie that will help them achieve both competitive success and personal development in a safe and enjoyable manner.

The coaching staff and I are excited to welcome you to a new year. Please read through the requirements and important dates (attached). If you are not sure about the commitment or the requirements, please contact us directly so we can talk about your situation. Also, if you are in need of equipment or a bike, please let us know as soon as possible. We are looking forward to riding and to getting to know ALL members of this team! Thanks for your interest and enthusiasm.

Susie Fiore – Team Manager  
(575) 770-2391  
info@fitaos.org

Sean Cassily – Head Coach  
(575) 779-3729  
seancassily@gmail.com

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### 2021 TEAM SCHEDULE

#### Practice and Special Event Schedule:

- Practices start at 4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 9am on Sundays
- First practice will be Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup>
- October 17<sup>th</sup> Ride the Rift 6-hour event and fundraiser (Rift Valley, Taos) – permit pending
- Other special events (bike maintenance clinics, etc) TBA

#### New Mexico Early Season Races:

- Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> - Oak Flats, NM
- Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> - Glorieta, NM

#### Colorado League Races - South Conference Piedra Region:

- Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> – Nathrop, CO (leave Friday/return Saturday)
- Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> – Snowmass, CO (leave Saturday/return Sunday)
- Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup> – Eagle, CO (leave Friday/return Saturday)
- Saturday/Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – Durango, CO (State Championships) (travel plan TBA)

We will travel to races as a team and camp, pre-ride, race, and eat together as a team.

Athletes are **not** required to attend every practice or every race. We understand that athletes have other commitments and simply encourage fullest participation feasible to attain the highest benefits. Athletes should commit to participating in at least one race.

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### HOW TO JOIN!

You've learned about the Team, had your questions answered, and are a high schooler (or know one) who wants to join. Now what?

How to join:

- Get Team paperwork from the website [www.fitaos.org](http://www.fitaos.org) (click on Cycling Programs and then on High School Mountain Bike Team).
- Complete all Team paperwork and return to Susie or Sean at FIT Base Camp or by mail.
- Pay basic Taos Composite team fees. Scholarships available.
- You will receive an email invitation from Taos Composite to register with the Colorado League. This is the online Colorado League athlete registration and race registration site. This is where you pay your Colorado League annual registration fee (\$150) as well as race fees for individual races. Scholarships are available at [www.coloradomt.org/scholarships/](http://www.coloradomt.org/scholarships/) Deadlines to apply for scholarships is August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- You also complete a Colorado League athlete waiver online.
- Once these steps are completed, your athlete may participate in all Team practices and events.
- In the meantime, WELCOME! Like our Facebook page and get ready for a great season!

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