Gavin Struve | The Brookings Register

The start of the 2026 Harvey Mills Longest Day 10k.

2026 Longest Day 10k features fastest winning time, largest turnout in years

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Saturday was an optimal day for the annual Harvey Mills Longest Day 10k.

The race featured its largest turnout in over a decade and its fastest winning time since 2020. Optimal temperatures of around 60 degrees at the start of the race may have contributed to both developments.

The last race winner to run as fast as 2026 Longest Day 10k champion Tyler Boltjes was...Boltjes six years ago.

Boltjes, who lives in Beresford, won the 6.2-mile race with a time of 35 minutes and 26 seconds (a pace of five minutes and 42 seconds per mile on average) this year.

His winning time was nearly two full minutes faster than the mark that won the last Longest Day 10k, which occurred in 2024 because last year's iteration was canceled due to lightning. In 2020, Boltjes ran 34:14.

This year's second-place finisher also topped the 2024 winning time, and the third-place finisher was just five seconds from doing so. Marco Springman — a 2026 Brookings High School graduate who ran on the Bobcat varsity team at the 2025 South Dakota Class AA State Cross Country Meet — finished runner-up with a 36:49 clocking. Josh Scholten of Marshall, Minnesota finished third in 37:28.

Trevor Hinderaker (Astoria) and Joshua Ryan (Sioux Falls) placed fourth and fifth, respectively, with a four-minute gap between them. Thirteen-year-old Levi Van Zee of Brookings placed sixth.

Adrienne Bender (seventh place overall) was the fastest woman. She completed the distance in 45 minutes and 28 seconds (seven minutes and 19 seconds per mile on average).

Maci Licht, who competed at the past three South Dakota Class A State Cross Country Meets for Sioux Valley High School, was the second-fastest woman. She ran 46:31 to place 10th overall. Maddie Reiff (Dell Rapids) and Stacey Cleaver (Brookings) joined her in the top 15, placing 14th and 15th, respectively.

This year's race had the most participants (56) of any Longest Day 10k since 2014. Forty individuals completed the 10k, and 16 additional individuals competed between eight different relay teams with two members each running five kilometers.

Noah Minor and Luke Minor of Sioux Falls, the great-grandsons of the race's namesake, won the relay with a time of 39:30.

Members of two relay teams comprised of Brookings girls varsity cross country runners — Maisie Mogard, Jordyn Johnson, Kaylie Kuehl and Isabel Overby — crossed the finish line holding hands to tie for second place among relay teams.

The top four-legged finisher at the 2026 Harvey Mills Longest Day 10k.

The Harvey Mills Longest Day 10k is named for Harvey Mills, one of the Prairie Striders Running Club's original members, who's a long-time supporter and benefactor of the club. The race originated in 1970 as the Longest Day Marathon, according to the club's publication, The Pacesetter.

Runners left from the Fishback Soccer Complex and did two laps of Dakota Nature Park before returning to the start area for the finish. All proceeds from the event benefited the Brookings High School and South Dakota State University cross country programs.

— Contact Gavin Struve at gstruve@cmpapers.com.

Adrienne Bender (pictured) was the top women's finisher at the 2026 Harvey Mills Longest Day 10k.

Marco Springman (pictured) was the runner-up at the 2026 Harvey Mills Longest Day 10k.

Tyler Boltjes crosses the finish line first at the 2026 Harvey Mills Longest Day 10k.

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