

Mountain biking

1,000-foot drop, \$25K beckon

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CEDAR CITY - Gutsy, dangerous, intense and insane.

These are just some of the superlatives used to describe Red Bull Rampage: The Evolution, which takes place starting Thursday outside Zion National Park.

During the competition, 28 of the world's best mountain bikers will challenge each other in navigating their bikes down a 1,000-foot vertical drop for a chance to win \$25,000.

The event concludes Sunday near the town of Virgin in Washington County where the winner is named. Also, the Utah Sports Commission will present an award Sunday for the best trick.

The public can view the competition, but it won't be easy.

Organizers say the only way for spectators to reach the site is to hike or bike 4 miles from Virgin to the event venue over hot, uneven desert terrain. Pets are not allowed.

The public route is marked and Red Bull workers will be at the trailhead to guide spectators.

Attendees must stay in designated viewing areas and must bring their own water and other provisions. Those who pedal to the site will be required to check their bike with an on-site valet.

Riders will be judged on style, amplitude and difficulty of the route taken to the finish line involving the 1,000 foot vertical drop, said event spokesman Ryan Snyder.

Parking will be provided starting at 8 a.m. for those wishing to attend at State Road 9 and Camino Del Rio Street in Virgin.

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Online

For more information on the event, including a map for how to get there, go to **www.redbullrampage.com**

Admission is free, but visitors should expect a 4-mile trek from the nearest parking area. No motorized vehicles at the venue site.

Schedule

THURSDAY and FRIDAY: Riders will scout their routes and practice,

SATURDAY: Riders will take two runs each with the top 14 advancing to Sunday's finals, which include two more runs, with the best score determining the winner, who will be announced in Virgin.