



# *Puzzle Marathon!*

*Sat. August 22, 2026*  
*9:00 am - 9:00 pm*  
*San Mateo County, CA*

## Overview

- Teams of 4-6 puzzlers will participate in the 12-hour Petit Peninsula Puzzlethon.
- Up to 4 team members can actively puzzle at any one time.
- Teams complete as many 1000-piece puzzles as they can from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.
- Teams will be ranked by the total number of puzzle pieces assembled in 12 hours.
- Top 3 teams will be recognized and receive certificates and prizes.

## Registration

- Registration is per team, not individual. People aged 18 and above can participate.
- Entry fee is \$450 for the entire team. This is non-refundable and must be paid in one lump sum to the event organizer within 7 days of the team being confirmed as participants. Payment instructions will be included in the registration confirmation email.
- Team member names are not needed at registration. You can provide them later and they can be changed until July 31, 2026.
- Entry fee covers:
  - One team entry to the Petit Peninsula Puzzlethon that covers up to 6 puzzlers
  - 12 pre-selected 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles to be used in the Puzzlethon and taken home by the participants
  - For any team that finishes all 12 puzzles before 9 pm, they will be presented with additional puzzles to complete and taken home
  - Light snacks
  - Welcome bag with name tags
  - Parking at the event venue
- Exact location will be sent to registered participants.
- All participants must sign and return a waiver by July 31, 2026 in order to attend.
- Registration opens on March 22, 2026 and closes on July 17, 2026 or when all team spots are sold out.
- A waitlist will be available if spots are sold out before registration closes.

## Event Timeline

Time (Pacific)	Activity
8:00 am	Organizers set up
8:30 - 8:50 am	Teams check in and go to the designated competition table
8:50 am	Opening Ceremonies. All team members must be present.
9:00 am	Competition begins
10:00 am - 8:00 pm	Informal puzzle swap table open for complete puzzles only, no missing pieces. Use 1:1 etiquette.
9:00 pm	Competition ends
9:30 pm	Closing ceremonies, all team members must be present.
10:00 pm	Venue closes

## Assembling Puzzles

- Teams will puzzle at their assigned puzzling table.
- Teams will assemble puzzles one at a time in the sequence specified by organizers.
- A max of 4 team members can puzzle at any given time.
- Each team will have an active puzzling space of 6' x 30".
- No alterations to the puzzle table and surface is allowed.
- Sorting trays are allowed of any quantity, size, and material.
- Teams may store personal items under the table but must keep the walkways clear.
- For any team that finishes all 12 puzzles before 9 pm, they will be presented with additional puzzles to complete in a specified order. These may or may not be 1000 piece puzzles. These puzzles will also count toward the final piece count ranking to determine winners.

## Active Team Member Swaps

Teams can swap in and out active team members at any time and frequency during the event by following these steps:

1. One of the active team members will leave the active puzzling space by fully crossing the designated competition boundary line
2. The replacement team member waiting outside the competition boundary line will step into the active puzzling space and can begin to puzzle

Non-active team members cannot provide physical or verbal assistance to the active members, but supportive encouragement is allowed.

## Completing Puzzles

When a team is about to complete a puzzle, follow these steps:

1. When only 25 pieces are remaining in the current puzzle, teams must alert a judge to record their completion time.
2. When the puzzle is complete, the judge will verify the puzzle's completion and record the time of the day to the second.
3. One of the team members must take a photo of the completed puzzle.
4. The team must carefully dismantle the puzzle and return it to its box and close the lid. This box should then be stored beneath the team's table for the remainder of the competition.
5. Teams may bring the next assigned puzzle to the table only after the previous puzzle's box has been closed and removed from the table surface. They can then begin assembling the new puzzle.

## Missing Pieces

There is a maximum 10 second penalty for missing pieces, even if the piece(s) is/are found later. Penalty is not per piece.

- Protocol: If a piece is missing, judges should note the time of the last assembled piece and the puzzlers may look for the missing piece.
  - If it's found within 10 seconds: The completion time should reflect when the final piece is put in.
  - If not found within 10 seconds: The puzzlers can stop looking and their completion time will be noted as the last assembled piece time plus 10 seconds. Even if there are multiple missing pieces, only 10 seconds should be added.
- 10+ missing pieces: If there are 10 or more pieces missing, the puzzle will incur the 10 second penalty, and the missing pieces will be subtracted from the printed pieces on the box when doing final scoring.

## Scoring

Teams will be ranked by the total number of puzzle pieces assembled in 12 hours, starting from the most. The score is calculated by adding together:

- For completed puzzles, use the piece counts listed on the boxes
- For each team's last in-progress puzzle, subtract the number of unassembled pieces from the piece count listed on the box. Any number of pieces that are assembled together (2+) count toward total assembled pieces.

- For each completed puzzle missing 10+ pieces, subtract the number of missing pieces from the piece count listed on the box.

Top 3 teams will be recognized and receive winner's certificates and prizes.

## Additional Equipment

- All filming and electronic equipment must be kept away from the walkways
- Personal lights are allowed
- Table clamps must be within 4" of the table edge
- Bring portable power for your equipment as outlets are sparse and not next to the tables

## Competition Space

- Each team will get a competition table space of 6' x 30" with 4 chairs for active puzzlers
- More chairs will be available for non-active team members to use while waiting
- In the active puzzling space, covered bottles and small snacks are allowed. No large food or open beverage containers. Messes and spills must be cleaned up in a timely manner and no competition time compensation will be given. The goal is to avoid messes and delays to your team and potentially other teams.
- Background music will be played at a soft level. If teams request silence, the organizers will consider this. Live streaming will not be a consideration for event organizers when setting the level of music.

## Resting Area

- This is a separate space where teams and volunteers can put their personal items, go to relax, eat, and socialize.
- Bring your own charging cords.
- Keep an eye on your own belongings. Organizers are not responsible for damage or theft of personal belongings, including electronic devices.

## Competition Etiquette

- Standing on chairs or sitting on tables is not allowed.
- Noise levels should be kept at a reasonable volume and not be distracting to other teams, venue staff, or other venue visitors. This event can be celebratory, joyful, and spirited, while being respectful to everyone present.
- Only official puzzling activity is allowed in the competition space.
- Participants are responsible for demonstrating safe and healthy behavior throughout the event.

- Attendees may capture footage for personal and professional use. By participating in this event, you consent to the use of your likeness for the purpose of sharing information about the event.
- Keep the restrooms tidy.

## Food and Beverages

- The event will provide light snacks.
- Bring your own meals, snacks, and beverages.
- There are multiple coffee shops, restaurants, and grocery stores within a 5-10 minute drive.
- Alcohol is not permitted.

## Additional Notes

- The organizers retain the right to modify any part of these rules and will notify participants of any changes at the earliest opportunity.
- Matters not covered by these rules will be reviewed by the event organizers and their decisions will be final. All decisions will be guided by a commitment to fairness and made with the intention of achieving a reasonable outcome.
- Event organizers have the final say for event proceedings, rules, and scoring.
- Contact [puzzles@blueorca.org](mailto:puzzles@blueorca.org) with any questions.