

“Wipeout”



“Wipeout” is an American game show series in which contestants compete in what is billed as the “world’s” largest extreme obstacle course.” The show is taped at the Golden Oak Ranch in Canyon country, Santa Clarita, California, 40 miles north of Los Angeles. There are two ways that you can become one of the 24 contestants competing in each episode. For more details, visit the ABC Web site and look up “Wipeout” for each option.

Once all contestants are chosen, the games begin. During an episode, contestants compete through four rounds of competition until a final winner is crowned “Wipeout champion.” Some new qualifier stunts have been added to the course—including the “Double Cross,” the “Pitch Fork,” the “Blob,” the “Fence Flapper,” and the “Smack the Wall Sweeper” to name a few.

The 12 quickest finishers of the first round move on to the second. These challenges vary, but the challengers once more face the likely possibility of ending up taking a plunge into a muddy pit. Six contestants survive this round and head on to round three, which narrows the field down to the top four survivors. The third round resembles the first because the players must traverse a huge and complicated challenge course. As in the earlier course, getting soaked is extremely likely. The challenger who completed the field in the

shortest amount of time claims the grand treasure of \$50,000.

The challenges change each week, but always feature offbeat and comical obstacles, such as the “Sucker Punch,” the “Sweeper,” the “Dizzy dummy,” or the “Dreadmill,” and the “Wipeout Zone.” “Wipeout” has become an extremely popular television show, with TV Week recently naming it the third most viewed reality program in the world. It is loved not only for the exciting obstacles faced by the contestants but also for the funny and ironic slant mood of the commentary by John Henson and Hon Anderson.

Jill Wagner offers additional commentary and reactions, and also provides interviews with the contestants filmed before their turn begins. Generally only those who pass the first round are introduced, and each are assigned a nickname that is used throughout the game, however, during “Wipeout Zone,” the show takes an epic and serious turn, with the humor dialed down, and serious background music instead of its lighter theme music.

“Wipeout” first aired on January 3, 2009, grabbing mammoth amounts of viewership. If you enjoy watching reality shows and are looking for a good laugh, then “Wipeout” is a must see show. “Wipeout” was nominated for a Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Award and was voted by Entertainment Weekly’s readers a Reality TV’s Guiltiest Pleasure.