

Cycle America® Bicycle Tours and Events

Managing Risk and Responsibilities

PREAMBLE

Cycling can be a dangerous activity and good preparedness can minimize that risk. Cycle America organizes cycling routes from 35 to 110 ride miles with an overall average of 78 miles per ride day. This Risk Management Plan documents how Cycle America supports and organizes bicycle rides to reduce the risks associated with a cycling activity. These policies apply and are required to be practiced by all cyclists, support staff and volunteers involved in the events (collectively referred to as “participants”). All participants share the responsibility to make Cycle America tours as safe as possible. Each participant will receive a copy, electronic or otherwise, of this Risk Management Plan and a copy shall be available on the Cycle America website.

INHERENT RISKS

- Proximity to motor vehicles, other cyclists, road & animal hazards
- Poorly maintained bicycle, helmet, or cycling apparel
- Poor judgment
- Inadequate cycling skills
- Lack of physical conditioning and riding preparation
- Inclement weather and poor road surfaces
- Extreme weather and temperatures (hypothermia, hyperthermia)

TOUR / RIDE LEADER(S)

Tour Leader(s) will attend each event to coordinate, support and direct the ride. Tour Leader(s) will carry a cell phone for emergencies and be available to all participants. Tour Leader(s), or designates, have the final decision on all matters pertaining to the event. Before each ride, the Tour Leader(s) will:

- Introduce themselves to the group.
- Make a pre-ride announcement highlighting safety tips.
- Review the planned route, or any changes to the route, and identify any anticipated road hazards (i.e. rail tracks, cattle guards).
- Provide an emergency contact number to all participants.
- Determine any actions or changes regarding inclement weather.

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

All participants will receive a General Tour Information guide. The booklet is a key companion to any Cycle America event. It includes information on how Cycle America operates, tips to prepare for a tour, safe riding practices and rules of the road.

ROUTES

All routes utilize federal, state, county, and local roads that include motor vehicle traffic. Whenever possible, rides will take place on lesser-traveled roads. Participants must obey all traffic laws, ride to the right, and use caution.

GENERAL

- All participants are required to wear a CPSC, ASTM, ANSI or SNELL approved bicycle helmet when riding a bicycle during the events.
- All riders are responsible to ensure that their bicycle is in good working order.
- Each participant shall conduct him or herself in a responsible, safe and prudent manner and retains liability for their own actions.
- Every participant, without exception, must obey all traffic laws, including stopping at all stop signs and signals.
- Riders shall stay to the right of the road as conditions permit and ride single file.
- Cycle America recommends that participants carry cell phones. In the event of an emergency, participants should immediately call 911 via cell phone or other practical means. Cycle America recognizes that cell phone service may not be available in all areas along a route.

ROUTE & SUPPORT MEETINGS

A ride support leader will always inspect and review a route before the ride. All participants will have the opportunity to attend a ride/route meeting before cycling a route. This includes a daily route handout, ride support review, ride highlights, ride cautions and support locations along a cycling route.

ROUTE SUPPORT / SAG VEHICLES

Ride days begin with a staggered start to spread riders out and include daily route support. Support vehicles patrol the official route for cyclists in need of assistance. Support vehicles are for fatigued cyclists and/or those who need help with a mechanical problem. Each vehicle is prepared to transport participants and bicycles. A support vehicle is equipped with a first-aid medical kit, water, energy bars, bicycle pump, spare tubes and a two-way radio.

WAIVER, RELEASE AND CONSENT

All participants are required to read, acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions of participating in the event(s). The terms and conditions in part, require participants to acknowledge and take responsibility for the risks associated with riding a bike on the road with other road users including motor vehicles. Participants are required to review and submit a signed "Waiver, Release and Consent". All Waivers are kept indefinitely.

INSURANCE

Participants are required to have adequate personal medical insurance. Cycle America carries general liability and auto/vehicle insurance. Cycle America does not provide personal injury or medical insurance for participants.

INCIDENT REPORT

Whenever an accident or other notable incident occurs, Tour Leader(s) must complete and submit a Cycle America Incident Report and document location/site of incident, weather/road conditions, any injuries, any First Responder actions taken, any other important details, and how the situation was resolved.