



Ride Leader's Guide

Ride Planning for the Group

We have two ride sessions per year—September to December and January to June. In August and again in December you will receive an e-mail asking for dates and places that you want to lead a ride.

We ask that each ride team (a couple or two singles) submit three dates and three destinations. Please do not request to lead a ride to Hilton Head Plantation on October 13, but rather, indicate that you would like to lead a ride to HHP, Shipyard, or The Crescent. These rides can occur on September 22, October 13 or November 17.

By not linking rides with dates, the planners have greater possibility of balancing rides between nearby and more far distant places and ensuring that we don't travel twice in the same month to the Savannah area.

Also, it is really good to identify a ride we have not done before or that has not been done in some time. Greater variety makes for more participation and greater interest. Past Ride Descriptions are available on the web site under Archives.

A Committee will take the requests and assemble them into a ride schedule.

How many rides am I expected to lead?

It depends on the level of membership and the number of ride dates. All members are expected to share the responsibility equally to lead enough rides to cover the dates.

Individual Ride Planning

When planning a ride, we ask that you consider a ride that is new or one that has not been done in some time. Going to the same place all the time gets boring and the level of ride participation reflects this. New is typically better!

- In considering a ride destination, please think about the relationship between driving time and riding time. While a fantastic ride may be available in Macon, driving 3-4 hours for a 2.5 hour bike ride is not appealing to many! But that might make a very good place to do a ride and an overnight.

- Please consider the vehicular traffic. We want to be safe. Most of us do not like to ride on roadsides having much traffic. Bike trails are best, residential streets with little traffic are good. Riding along the shoulder of busy streets is bad.

- Please consider where to park at the destination. We need space for as many cars as there are driving to the ride.

- Please consider the availability of a good nearby restaurant—we all like to eat!

If your ride involves a gated community or other non-public entity, please get permission for the ride. We don't want to be shadowed by security and asked to leave!

When the plans for your ride are finalized (as quickly as possible and no later than 14 days prior to the ride), please send the Ride Plan information for the web site to the webmaster at webmaster@ezridersshi.org.

We need the information listed below that is laid out on the Ride Description form:

Date:

Destination (Ride Title):

Directions to the start:

A description of the ride:

Lunch arrangements:

Trip leaders with phone and email:

Leading a ride

Enjoy the ride!

Get permission and arrange for entry to the parking area if necessary.

Make a list of those participating.

Ensure that all members who are going have arrived at the departure point.

Brief members on what we will be doing.

Identify a sweep to monitor speed, vehicles approaching from the rear and communication with the leader, etc.

Ensure that the average speed is between 9 and 11 mph. Schedule one potty stop during the ride if possible. Have one or two water stops.

When regrouping, please wait a bit after the last arrival before resuming the ride.

Be aware of safety issues during the entire ride. After the ride, be sure that members know directions to the restaurant.

If I need to change a scheduled date

Occasionally, because of illness or travel, it may be necessary to reschedule your ride. When that happens, please review the ride schedule and make a swap of dates with another member and let the webmaster know so that the information on the web site may be updated.

If I need to cancel a ride

On the morning of the ride, you discover that it is raining BIG. If possible call someone in the area to determine it is raining at the destination—sometimes Indigo Run has a downpour while Palmetto Dunes does not have a sprinkle. But, if you determine that it looks like a washout, call those planning to do the ride and let them know that it has been cancelled. If you need to call a large number of riders, you may want to ask the help of another member so that the calls may be completed quickly, likewise, we occasionally cancel rides because it is just too cold. It is the responsibility of the ride leader to make the decision on the ride cancellation.

Safety

Our Number 1 concern is safety. We don't want anyone to be injured ever. Please think about these precautions as well as others.

Look both ways before crossing streets.

Keep a reasonable distance between you and the rider to your front.

Enjoy the companionship of other members, but please watch what you are doing and where you are going.

After crossing intersections, please wait for those behind you but stop some distance away from the intersection.

On approaching an up-grade, shift to a lower gear to maintain speed.

Please ride single file except in the most unused of residential streets.

Stay well to the right on roads and bike trails. Where possible, cross busy streets only at traffic signals.

Use arm signals for turns and stops.

When passing another cyclist, let them know by announcing "Passing Left."

If you see a vehicle approaching from the rear, ring your bell and announce "Car Back."

When planning a ride, arrange the route to minimize crossing streets. Try all right turns, sometimes crossing busy streets is not necessary.

Please operate your bike in a safe and conscientious manner.