

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.....(FAQ's)



Will there be rest stops along the route?

Yes, there will be official rest stops along the route with water, energy drinks, and snacks. There will also be small towns along the route each day. Please support the local stores so that they want us back. We cannot give out free snacks near a store that sells them.

What about safety and security? What if I crash?

There will be Tennessee State Park Rangers along the route each day. All rangers are certified Red Cross first responders and many are EMT certified. Tennessee State Park Rangers are state law enforcement officers and will be present in blue light emergency vehicles. In other words, you get an "armed escort" all week.

Will my Bike be safe if I leave it outside my tent?

Usually it's not a concern but bike security is the responsibility of the bike owner. It is your personal responsibility to keep your stuff secure. We will have Rangers on duty and we all should have a watchful attitude concerning everyone's stuff. BUT: It's always advisable to lock your bike.

Why has the registration cost of this years' BRAT gone up?

The 09 BRAT did not increase this year even though our vendors' prices did. BRAT will overnight in some areas that are very rural and offer no easy dinning options. That is why the meals at those remote stops are included in your registration fee.

How will my luggage get from one point to another?



You will place your tent, duffel bags, and other gear on the luggage truck(s) no later than 8am each morning. Your "stuff" will be waiting when you arrive at the next overnight stop.

Remember, no explosives, fuels or lawn chairs allowed on the luggage truck. Please pack light! This is not a fashion show, and you will be lugging this stuff from the truck to your campsite all week!

Where do we camp each night? Is there indoor camping available?

Some of the overnight stops will have "covered" areas to sleep under, such as recreation halls or picnic shelters. BUT: This is limited and not available at every site. Be prepared to camp outside in case those options fill up.

What about food?

You will not starve on this bike ride. However, there will be some nights where restaurants are not close by. These meals are included in the cost of your registration fee.

What if I have to cancel my registration due to unavoidable circumstances? Will I get a refund?

There will be a \$25 dollar handling fee for refunds. This covers the cost of time, printing, postage, etc. Your money will be refunded as quickly as possible; however, this may take more time as the event grows closer. You can expect at least 1 to 2 weeks. No refunds will be given after September 1st!

I am a vegetarian. Will I be able to find adequate food?

All meals served as part of your registration fee will offer vegetarian options. Hopefully the non-vegetarians won't eat it before you get to it. However, for those times which dining is "on your own", it is your responsibility to seek out vegetarian fare. This year's route will overnight in some very rural areas, and restaurants may be limited.

I am planning to stay in hotels and cabins all week. How will I get to and from my hotel and the ride headquarters each day?

Riders choosing to stay in hotels are responsible for their own transportation to and from the hotels. There will be a fee based transportation service offered by a private vendor during the BRAT: contact Glen Morey

Will there be adequate Showers & toilets?

Ahhh.. The IMPORTANT questions! We are planning for it.
This year we will be using park swimming pool bath houses for toilets and showers. We will use a combination of porta-potties, park facilities and other options for your needs. Remember when you get 300 folks eating, sleeping and riding at the same times- other things synchronize, also. There will be lines and possibly ghosts in the machines. Be patient. Use these times to practice advanced milling-around techniques.

What will the weather be like in September?



This is not a picture from the BRAT, it's just a funny picture.

Well, first and foremost, hopefully dry! Expect cool nights, slightly chilly mornings and warm to hot by 10am. September is generally a warm, dry month in Tennessee. The 08 BRAT weather was highs in the 70's and lows in the 50's. There could be a very cold night this year so prepare for it. Last year it was perfect, lets hope it's perfect again!

The ride director suggests bringing arm warmers and leg warmers so that you can easily layer or un-layer. September is Tennessee's transition month from summer to fall. So, you know what weather forecasts are worth?

Is the ride hilly? How many miles do we go each day?

The 09 BRAT will be almost-but-not-quite-totally-unlike-hilly. The hills this year are mostly through river valleys. There will be some stretches of flat riding this year. The average mileage per

day will be around 60 with a couple of 80 milers. Remember, you have all day! This is not a race! Actual mileage will be posted on the website when the detailed route is completely finished.

What if I break down along the way, or get too exhausted to continue?



There will be several support vehicles along the route each day. There will also be a bike mechanic available throughout the week free of charge (tips are greatly appreciated!). Parts are limited so, if you have a special size or high-end spokes, bring some extra. Make sure your bike is tuned up BEFORE you start the BRAT!

What TIME does the ride start each morning?

No official starting 'gun' in the morning. Start when you like BUT: Baggage Truck must be loaded by 8am so if you sleep in, you may have to ride with your baggage. Route support starts at 7am. Don't jeopardize your safety by riding in the dark, but if you do ride before 7am, you are on a not-yet-supported route.

Will you carry my stuff/jacket/souvenirs/bags full of unnecessary plastic objects in the SAG vans?

Within reason, we will try to help where we can. But don't abuse. We are not a taxi service or UPS. You may not have access to your items left in a vehicle for a few days. If that vehicle is needed elsewhere on the ride, it will be gone. You'll get your things sometime. Its up to YOU to find that particular identical white van/truck and get your stuff. You can ask the driver to drop your stuff at ride headquarters whenever he/she gets there. Any really cool stuff may be borrowed by the ride director. Of course, any illegal items/contraband will be handled by law enforcement. NO Exceptions.

My neighbors snore so loud my tent shakes, will you talk to them?

Nope, sorry, it's a ride law to have a requisite number of loud snorers... try earplugs?

The ride director refused my request, what gives?

Its another ride-law that the ride director must use a minimum of 2 NO's per day. It was just a numerical thing. Try again... Tomorrow.

How accurate are the Cue sheets?

EXTREMELY Accurate!!! Wanna buy a used car? YMMV. There will be typos and mistakes. Riding around parking lots, coriolis forces and wrinkles in the space-time continuum all affect your mileages. Just call it Director-Miles. The routes have been checked and re-checked several times, but mistakes happen. Changes will be made even at last minute. Already some un-known

paving projects and bridge replacements have changed the routes. *You will get a copy of the most up-to date cue sheet at check-in. So you do not have to print them before the ride.*

Who picked the route we ride?

With some help, the routes this year are mostly the fault and the responsibility of the ride director. With lots of help from anybody who volunteers.

What type of roads do you choose?

We have 3 levels of roads on BRAT:

Level 1 roads are picture postcard perfect, smooth, quiet, down hill & with a tail wind.

Level 2 roads are mostly ok, some tar&chip roughness but pretty good & scenic.

Level 3 roads are "I'm going to kill Gary if I survive this" roads. Roads are picked based on direction of travel, surface condition, scenic quality, efficiency and the utter capriciousness of the ride director.

Will someone help me set up my tent?

Yes, and there'll be a mint on your pillow every night.

Where do we camp each night?

All campsites will be well marked by the BRAT markings. Mostly in ball fields, open areas and picnic grounds in the parks. Not usually in the actual park campgrounds.

I don't feel like riding today, can I ride with the SAG to next camp?

Probably not, the SAG gets pretty full during the day and has limited room. If you are injured or ill, we will find a way to get you up the route. SAG vans primary role is on-route support of riders. If you are on a SAG, you may not get in to camp until LATE that afternoon, the SAG must stay on the route and can't make special trips. The ride director, vendors, other staff may be the ones to ride with. We'll work it out.

Will there be Entertainment?

What? Riding all day isn't enough for you vacation junkies? Ok, There will usually be entertainment/programs/music/movie nights/something to do each night. The snore contest starts at 10pm.

BOOKS?

Yes, there will be a small stack of books to borrow or trade for your pleasure. Look for the Library at ride headquarters (AKA the Rubbermaid tub-o-books)

Coffee? I need coffee!!!!!!!!!!

You will be able to get coffee. Hallelujah!!!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, JUST E-mail THE RIDE DIRECTOR AT GaryW.Patterson@tn.gov who will be on paternity leave for most of May... And completely sleep deprived before and after so, be patient. We'll work it out.