

Hello riders!

We are just a few days away from the inaugural Loudoun 1725 Gravel Grinder and we're stoked!! Please read this email completely as it contains some important reminders.

If you haven't read the [full ride information email](#), please do so. It's epic, just like our routes!

The ride is totally **SOLD OUT** and we cannot allow additional riders to participate.

[See who is riding!](#)

Volunteers

We still need several more volunteers for the ride. If you have any friends or family that are coming to the ride (or couldn't get in because it was sold out), please encourage them to volunteer. Volunteer shifts are 3 to 5 hours and start at 6:30am, 8am, or 12pm. Volunteers should [sign up on our website](#).

Staging Area

The staging area will be located in the front lawn of the Salamander Resort (500 N. Pendleton Street, Middleburg, VA 20117). The staging area will serve as the hub of most non-riding activity. All routes will start and finish here.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, June 9, 2019

- 6:30am-9:00am – Check-In Open
- 7:30am-8:30am – 80 Mile Starting Window
- 7:30am-9:00am – 60 Mile Starting Window
- 7:30am-9:30am – 40 Mile Starting Window
- 11:00am-6:00pm – Post-ride Food/Beer, Massage, Music, Giveaways

Check-In and Packet Pickup

Check-in will be open from 6:30am-9am and take place at the large tent in the staging area. At check-in, you will receive your t-shirt and ride packet. Ride packets include bike number/twist ties, bib number/safety pins, route map, cue sheets, and tips on riding safety/etiquette. You must check-in at least 30 minutes before the close of your starting window.

Start Times / Start Protocol

All 80 mile riders must start between 7:30am-8:30am, 60 mile riders must start between 7:30am-9am, and all 40 mile riders must start between 7:30am-9:30am. **To prevent overcrowding on the roads, we will start no more than five riders at any given time and space riders out by at least one minute between starting groups.** If you intend to start early, we suggest arriving and lining up early.

You will receive a mandatory final safety briefing before you start your ride.

Changing distances

If you want to change distances you can, but you MUST let us know when you check-in. Each ride increment you move up is \$10...so for example a change from the 40-miler to 60-miler is \$10. We accept cash or credit card. You can also move down to a lesser distance, but you will not be refunded.

Following the Route / Route Marking

There are several ways that riders will be able to follow the route (80M, 60M, and 40M) but the most popular way will be to follow the route markings. We are using 18"x24" coroplast signs and most of the signage have a white background, the ride logo, and blue arrows/text. At all turns on the route, riders will see a turn arrow about 25-50 meters before the turn, a turn arrow at the turn, and a straight arrow after the turn. When crossing major intersections, straight arrows will be positioned on the other side of the intersection. It is not practical or needed to mark every single side street that comes into the course. So, if you do not see an arrow, then just continue going straight. **AGAIN, ALL TURNS WILL BE MARKED.**

In addition to arrow signage, we will have yellow 'Caution – Bike Event Ahead' signs to alert vehicle traffic that our event is taking place. Other white background and blue text signs we will use include: Aid Station Ahead, 80 Mile Only Arrows (to direct 80 mile only riders), 40 Mile Only Arrows (to direct 40 mile only riders), Single File Please, and Wrong Way (placed at a few intersections to confirm that riders should not travel down this road) . A sample of all signage will be on display at the check-in area.

Following the Route / Route Marshals

Volunteer route marshals will monitor several busy and/or tricky intersections throughout the course.

Following the Route / Maps and Cue Sheets

Maps and cue sheets, with written turn-by-turn directions, will be included in your ride packet.

Following the Route / Ride with GPS

Download the ridewithgps app, download the route from our website, and follow the audible cues from your phone. Viewing the route on the app is free but if you want to navigate with the app, you will be required to pay a small fee. You can also download a FIT course (for Garmin devices) or GPX file from the route website on ridewithgps. SAFETY TIP – VA law allows one earbud only to be used when riding your bike.

- [40 Mile Route](#)
- [60 Mile Route](#)
- [80 Mile Route](#)

Weather

The forecast for Sunday is calling for cloudy conditions with possible rain showers and temperatures in the 70s. The forecast can change between now and ride morning, so please check the weather and dress appropriately. The event will be held rain or shine.

Safety reminders

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND TO PROTECT GRAVEL CYCLING IN LOUDOUN COUNTY, PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION AND FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

OPEN ROAD RIDE. The Loudoun 1725 Gravel Grinder is an open-road ride. Route marshals will monitor some of the intersections along the course but the roads along the route will remain open to vehicular traffic. Riders must abide by local traffic laws. Buckled bicycle helmets are required.

THIS IS NOT A RACE. Please take your time and enjoy the roads, the comradery of your fellow cyclists, and the scenery of this beautiful part of the country.

STAY IN CONTROL. Remember, this is an open road ride and not a race and at any time you can come upon a car, cyclist, horseback rider, wandering cow, etc. Please pay attention and watch your speed, especially on downhill sections with blind turns.

STOP and LET VEHICLES PASS YOU ON GRAVEL. Many of these gravel roads are narrow, with little or no shoulder. For your safety and as a show of courtesy, when you see a vehicle, either in front or behind you, PLEASE PULL OVER AT A SAFE SPOT AND LET THEM PASS YOU. Again, this is NOT A RACE. Also, don't forget to smile and wave. This is their backyard, folks. You will not see many vehicles on your ride so when you do, let's show the residents of this area that we are grateful visitors.

SINGLE-FILE ON PAVEMENT. The routes of the Loudoun 1725 are comprised mostly of gravel roads but there are several sections of pavement that connect the gravel. For your safety, please ride single-file when riding on the pavement.

SAFETY LIGHTS AND BRIGHT CLOTHING. While not required, using safety lights and wearing bright colored clothing will make you more visible on the roads.

DON'T PEE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD (i.e someone's yard). We should not even have to say this but here it is. There are portajohns at every aid station. Please hold it until then. Thank you.

Special Note about Horses

It's not uncommon to see horses on the gravel roads you will be travelling on. The most important thing is to COMMUNICATE and make the rider aware of your presence. If approaching from behind, horses have a very large blind spot and won't see you until you're practically level with their heads. It's vital therefore to let the riders know you're there with a clear "good morning" or similar. Don't shout overly loudly but don't be too tentative either. A horse is far less likely to be spooked by the sound of your voice than by being suddenly surprised by you appearing next to them. Wait until they've acknowledged your presence and follow any instructions they may give you for passing. Whether approaching horses from behind or head on, slow down and be prepared to stop. Allow plenty of time and distance for the horse and rider to become aware of your presence and pass widely when it's appropriate to do so. Remember, this is a ride not a race.

Remember...this is ride, not a race!

See you Sunday morning!

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