



Rider Quick Facts

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE RIDE FOR MISSING CHILDREN?

Sponsored by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children/New York (NCMEC/NY), the Ride for Missing Children is a police escorted, closed-road bike ride throughout Erie and Niagara counties that raises funds to support prevention education programs and to remember all missing children. Riders can choose between the full 100-mile century ride and a 45-mile half-ride. Riders stop along the route at area schools where children gather to cheer them on! More than 2,000 children are reported missing in the United States each day, some in our own community. For most families, this is only a brief scare as the child turns up in a few minutes or hours. But for some, the nightmare of a missing child becomes a grim reality. NCMEC's mission is to help recover missing children, protect all children from sexual exploitation, and assist in the prevention of these crimes.

WHEN IS THE RIDE?

The 12th Annual Ride for Missing Children/Buffalo will be held on **Friday, May 18, 2018**.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE RIDE?

Registration is online through Active.com. You will receive an email confirmation once your registration is complete.

WHERE DOES THE RIDE START?

The 2015 Ride will start from a new location from previous years. Directions and address will be posted on our website.

WHEN DOES THE RIDE START?

Registration check begins at 6:30 AM; the opening ceremony will start at approximately 7:05 AM and the Riders will depart at approximately 7:30 AM. If you have selected the 45-mile half-ride, you should meet at the route start for registration at 11:00 AM. We will transport you and your bike to the half-ride meeting point at 11:30. Lunch will be provided and the 45-mile ride will begin after lunch.

WHERE DO I PARK MY CAR?

Free parking is available at the Route Start. Look for the Ride signs.

ARE THERE BREAKS ALONG THE RIDE?

The full ride covers approximately 100 miles (45 miles for the half ride). There will be frequent stops at area schools allowing for 15-minute breaks. Food and water will be available at each stop. There will be a lunch stop at approximately 12:00 noon where we will connect with the 45-mile riders. A rider is not required to ride the entire 100 miles! A support bus will be available for those who wish to either take a rest or who have reached their own personal mileage goal. A support vehicle will also be there to safely transport bicycles on to the next stop.

DOES A RIDER HAVE TO BE CERTIFIED?

Yes! This is a safety issue. See certification guidelines.

WHY ARE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS REQUIRED?

Social Security numbers are required since this program involves children. The number will be used to screen nationally for those convicted of child sexual assault and exploitation offenses. Your registration and social security number are kept in a secure location and are destroyed and deleted after the Ride. Access is only through the Special Events Coordinator and that portion of the database is shared only with the Senior Analyst in the Case Analyses Unit who executes the search. We exercise the utmost discretion and respect your privacy.

DO I HAVE TO RAISE MONEY IN ORDER TO RIDE?

Yes! One of the primary goals of the Ride is to raise much need funding to support the services of the NCMEC/NY branch, including abduction prevention and Internet safety programs locally for our kids. \$300 is required for each rider to participate in the Ride.

HOW DO I RAISE THE FUNDS?

Ask friends, relatives & co-workers to support you in this challenge. See the Fundraising Tips in the Rider's Manual.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE RIDE?

There will be Training Rides scheduled for all riders that will be posted on the website. If you are a new rider it is mandatory that you join at least 2 of these Training Rides, lead by experienced riders who are members of our Ride Committee and also Ride Shepherds. All riders are urged to attend and participate in as many as possible. You will learn important skills for riding with a team and how to maintain an even pace. Please review the rules in the Rider's Manual.

WHY IS THE RIDE DURING THE WEEK?

The Ride For Missing Children is held during the week to allow riders to stop at targeted schools to help bring a safety message to schoolchildren. The children will have a pep-rally with our local educator several days prior to the Ride and will have another mini-rally during our stop at their school. Riders participate by interacting with the kids, giving out pencils with a safety message and joining in on the singing! This year the ride is on National Missing Children Day!

IS THERE A JERSEY FOR THE RIDE?

Yes! A distinctive, high-quality jersey from Voler will be given to each new Rider. The jersey colors represent those last worn by missing child, Sarah Ann Wood, whose story inspired the very first Ride For Missing Children. Returning riders are asked to wear their jerseys from their prior Ride.