

Welcome!

The DMCC board of directors, ride volunteers and sponsors welcome you to the 2017 Tour the Raccoon, a bike tour from the Des Moines Metro, overnighing in Jefferson Iowa then returning to Des Moines.

How the Ride Works

First, please register online at www.DMCycleClub.com, it's very important to pre-register so ride officials, towns, and support staff have a feel of how many riders to prepare for.

Online pre-registration closes at midnight, Friday June 2nd, 2017. You may also register the day of the ride from **8 AM to 9:30 AM at the Vince Meyer Learning Center, 400 Locust Street, Waukee IA**. Online registration costs are \$60 for DMCC members, and \$75 for non-club members. Youth ages (11-17) are \$30. Kids ages (1-10) are Free. *Same day registration is an additional \$10*. Credit card and PayPal accepted online, and Cash, Credit Card, or Check the day of the ride.

For those who pre- register, overnight bags may be dropped off starting on Saturday June 3rd at Bike World West (5950 Village View Drive, West Des Moines) during regular business hours. Bags must be dropped off by noon Friday the 9th of June. If you pre-registered and would like to start from Vince Meyer Learning Center the morning of the ride, that's fine. Saturday morning, park your vehicle at Vince Meyer, and then check in with us to receive your bandana and information packet. Then you'll simply put your bags in the Bike World truck, and start your ride. We'll have your bags at the campground waiting for you.

For those who want to register the morning of the ride.

Register at Vince Meyer Learning Center, 400 Locust Street, Waukee between 8 AM and 9:30 AM. Park your vehicle in overnight parking. Put your bags in the Bike World truck, then hop on your bike and ride. **The baggage truck will leave Waukee at 9:45.**

If you live in the Des Moines area, we highly recommend that you drop your bags off during the week, that way you can start the ride from your house and not have to worry about your bags, driving to Waukee and parking your vehicle overnight. When you drop off your bags, or when you register the day of the ride, you'll receive your rider's packet and rider map.

The tour starts on Saturday the 10th of June from Des Moines. There is no official start time or place... you can start the ride right from your house or anywhere in the metro area, but you must drop off your bag to be transported to Jefferson earlier in the week, or at Vince Meyer Learning Center the day of the ride. Ample parking will be available the day of the ride in front of Vince Meyer. From there you will ride on the trail all the way to Jefferson, approximately 55 miles.

NOTE: Ride will be held regardless of weather, all registrations are final and non-refundable. Helmets are required for all riders.

Ride Information

The Tour the Raccoon is designed for the entire family to enjoy. It is ideal for both the experienced rider wanting to add training miles, and for those just getting into cycling. Depending on your start location, the daily mileage will be around 55-60 miles. The entire ride is ridden on (mostly) flat, paved multi-purpose trails. There will be plenty of opportunities to take a break and that's where the real fun is.

One of the Midwest's Best Trails

The Raccoon River Valley Trail offers riders a great view of what Central Iowa is all about. Most of the ride goes past vast Iowa farm fields and through some of the most scenic river valleys Iowa has to offer. For more information visit the trail website at <http://www.raccoonrivervalleytrail.org/>

Unlike the past years, this year we must each have trail passes. They are \$2 a day, or if you plan on riding more than this one weekend, \$10 for the year. You can go online to purchase the yearly pass at www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation. If you purchase online there is a 'convenience fee'. OR, you can print off the form and mail to: Sherry James, Dallas County Conservation Board, 14581 K Avenue, Perry, IA 50220 and your pass will be mailed to you. The other option is to purchase the morning of your ride at one of the green tubes at each trail head. *We will also have some at the school during check in.* **If you plan to buy daily passes, you must have one for each day.**

We've patterned this ride after another famous ride in Iowa, but the Tour the Raccoon is a little shorter, a lot flatter, only two days, and is totally on bike trails. If you can't get away a full week to ride Ragbrai, or are concerned about riding that many miles, or you don't feel safe riding on the street, then this is the ideal way to give a bike tour a try.

We will include both loops of the Raccoon River Valley Trail. Saturday we'll ride the older south loop from Des Moines to Jefferson, passing through Waukee, Ortonville, Adel, Redfield, Linden, Panora, Yale, Herndon and Cooper before arriving in Jefferson. Then the next day we go at it again taking the north route from Jefferson, to Cooper, Herndon, Jamaica, Dawson, Perry, Minburn, and Dallas Center returning back in Waukee.

Scavenger Hunt? Poker Run? Hide and Seek? We're going to add some FUN to your ride to Jefferson with a great game! We're still working on it, but you'll be emailed all the details a day or two before the ride so you'll know exactly what to do! Feeling competitive? Then this will be right up your alley! That evening after dinner, we'll tally all the scores. Laughter and fun is guaranteed!

After your challenging and fun "day one" on your bike you'll be greeted by the town of Jefferson, a progressive town of about 4,500 with all the amenities that you'll need for a good night's stay.

On Saturday, when you arrive at the campsite, we'll have a few snacky things for you, to tide you over until dinner. *We'll also have some beverages available for a small donation.* That evening at 6PM, your hunger will be satisfied with a scrumptious meal from the Hotel Pattee! THEN... if the weather and wind cooperate, we'll even have a fire to roast a s'more or two!

For those who like to have a little more excitement, and even those who like a lot of excitement, Jefferson is hosting their annual Bell Tower Festival the same weekend. This year marks their 51st Anniversary, so things are sure to be rockin' in town! The Jefferson Bell Tower Festival begins on Friday the 9th and ends on Sunday the 11th. The Bell Tower Festival features activities for the entire family with amusement rides, kids Olympics, booth vendors that line the square. And for those over 21 the evening includes live performances on the Plaza Stage and bands and disc jockeys at the Bistro on both Friday and Saturday night.

Get a Good Night's Sleep

Our overnight in Jefferson will include a designated campground just for Tour the Raccoon riders at the Trailhead Campground. **FREE** showers will be available for riders both Saturday evening and Sunday morning (Don't forget to bring a towel).

All camping gear is the responsibility of participants, be sure to put everything you need in your luggage including tent, sleeping bags, extra clothes and toiletries. Jefferson has many stores available in case you forget something, but to be safe, "bring what you need". This is just a one night ride so everyone is limited to two bags not to exceed 50 pounds combined.

Sunday Morning We Do It All Over Again

After all the crazy fun of Saturday, Sunday morning you'll get up, take a shower if you wish, then pack up your bags and put them on the return truck.

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!

Once you arrive home you'll be able to pick up your luggage the same day ***AT THE VINCE MEYER LEARNING CENTER by 4:00pm***. If you dropped your bag at Bike World West you can wait as late as noon on Wednesday the 14th to get your bags. *If you left your bags at Vince Meyer Learning Center then you MUST get your bags no later than Sunday evening the 11th by 4 PM. Any bags left after 4 PM will be taken to Bike World West for you to pick up the next day.*

Feel Good in Knowing That You Had a Great Ride and Supported Area Trails and Your Bike Club

Thank You for riding...this booklet will be updated as needed, please check back often.

Contacts:

All "day of the ride" emergencies call 911

Questions or comments about the ride please email: GeorgieLibbie@gmail.com