



**BSA Troop 204
Cycling Merit Badge
Fall 2008**

November 24, 2008

Memo to: Austin D, Andrew W, Ryan C, Christian F, Peter L, Perry M

From: Tim Shannon

Re: 50 mile ride

Congratulations for getting this far. We only have 50 miles to go to finish the riding portion of this merit badge. Everyone has done well and is riding at the level needed to meet this qualification. Both of the 25 mile rides were finished in less than 3 hours so we should have no trouble making the 50 miles in less than eight hours, including rest stops.

Each of you submitted plans for the 50 mile ride. Two of you planned a turn-around trip such as we have been doing to date. Four of you submitted plans for a one way ride where we do the entire ride without turning around and backtracking. Majority rules, so we will do this as a one way trip.

The following riding plan is based on your submissions with alterations and additions by the adults:

Ride date: December 6, 2008

Meeting Time 7:45 AM

Meeting Location: Florence Road Trail Head

1. Ride from the Alabama line to Florence Road trailhead. Riders who are up to it and want to, may wish to ride to Mavell Road (another 11.8 miles) so they can say they have ridden the entire Silver Comet Trail. If you think you want to do that, let me know so we can plan adult and automobile requirements. I will need to know this no later than December 2nd Scout meeting.
2. Meet at Fontaine trailhead at 7:45 AM to load up and go to the Alabama line trailhead. The eight hour countdown clock will start when we start riding in Alabama. The clock does not stop for breaks and lunch.
3. People. We have six Scouts, six adult riders and two adults in the chase van.
4. Bicycles. We will use a combination of bicycle racks and a trailer if needed to transport the bicycles.
5. We will have a chase vehicle. This vehicle will meet us at four points along the way, approximately 12 ½ miles, 25 miles and 37 ½ miles and the end. This vehicle will haul, tools, hot drinks if required, take clothing layers that are not needed, lunch, etc. It will also provide a drop off point for any bikes/riders who have to drop out. It will have a bike rack on it. Mr. and Mrs. Way have volunteered to run the chase vehicle. Be sure to thank them.
6. First stop, approximately one hour from start, Cedartown Depot, 10.2 miles, 10 minutes rest stop.

7. Second stop, lunch, approximately 3 ¼ hours from start, Downtown Rockmart, 24.3 miles, 30 minutes stop (There are picnic tables in the area).
8. Third stop, approximately 6 hours from start, Rambo, 39.3 miles, 10 minutes break.
9. Last official stop, approximately 7 hours from start, Florence Road trailhead 49.7 miles, we might have to take a couple of laps around the parking lot to make up the 0.3 mile deficit. Cycle odometers on Mr. Clark's, Mr. French's and my bike will be the official mileage for the ride.
10. As you can see we have a one hour pad in this schedule for any unforeseen developments. Hopefully, we won't need it.
11. We will have the chase vehicle driver update all parents as to arrival time based on how the group is performing. My guess is riding time of 6 hours. Planned fifty minutes stop time. Call it seven hours. If we can be on the trail by 9:00 AM, our projected time to Florence Road would be 4:00 PM.
12. Lunch – There will be a light, hot lunch at Rockmart. Mr. French is one of the Bear grub masters (you know how well the Bears eat) and he will work with Mrs. Way to come up with a menu. (Yum, yum, my favorite).
13. If your parents are not on this ride someone must be on tap all day to pick you up if there are problems and you are unable to complete the ride.
14. Weather: We are already into the cold weather season. I was mildly chilled on Sunday's 25 mile ride. The Bears will set a minimum temperature for the ride. We will have to reschedule the ride if it is too cold or is raining. Keep your fingers crossed for another of those beautiful fall days that we have been having for most of our rides.
15. Clothing: Layers, layers, layers, more to come on this.
16. Water: Two water bottles minimum.
17. Go over your bike with a fine tooth comb to get it ready for this ride. Oil it, adjust it, clean it, replace damaged or worn out parts and in general insure that it won't break down in the middle of the ride and ruin your day.

Scouts

Austin D.
 Andrew W.
 Ryan C.
 Christian F.
 Peter L.
 Perry M.

Parents on Ride

Alan W., Jonna W. chase van
 Doug C. Riding
 Michael F. Riding
 Peter L. Riding

Other adults on Ride

Tim Shannon (Merit Badge Counselor)
 Mike Hawes
 Laura Hawes ???

Please share and discuss this memo with your parents.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,



Tim Shannon
 Assistant Scoutmaster
 BSA Troop 204