

NYCC Ride Leader Guidelines and Responsibilities

The quality of NYCC rides depends on the active participation of both riders and leaders. By listing a ride, a leader has advertised the general characteristics of a ride, on which riders should be able to rely.

1. Scout the route and stops before the actual ride. Designate rest stops appropriate to the level of the ride. Carry a map of the area (or use a smart phone or GPS) and extra cue sheets for emergencies.
2. Bring the pre-populated electronic sign in sheet from the web site that includes emergency contact information and make sure that all participants have signed in. If the emergency contact information has not been provided, have them fill that in clearly.
3. Give some thought as to any emergency situation that may arise. Know the location of train stations, shopping centers etc. on or near the route. You can also use your Garmin or GPS system and if you don't have one, you can ask one of your participants.
4. Announce what riders should expect if they fall behind. If you do not intend to drop riders, enlist the assistance of riders looking out for each other and announce where you intend to wait for lagging riders.
5. Turn back riders who are unqualified or show up with poorly maintained bikes at the start or before you get too far along on the ride. Aero bars and headphones are not permitted on rides. As a leader you have the final say on the ride, including that of removing uncooperative participants as a last resort.
6. Ride at the advertised pace. Riders should be able to rely on the cruising speed advertised in the ride description. Make allowances for hills.
7. Emphasize predictable, single or double line riding, attentive to local traffic laws and common sense. Do not bunch up at lights or while riding – maintain the line.
8. Maintain control of your ride. "Pace Busters" break the ride tempo and compromise group safety.
9. Be predictable, use signals, and alert other riders to dangerous obstacles and situations. Maintain a safe distance between riders commensurate with the level of the ride.
10. A pre-ride talk emphasizing some of these guidelines and encouraging safe and predictable riding must always be given.

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