



BIG BIKE CHALLENGE!

BICYCLE CHALLENGE

The Villages® Community

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Bradley Arnold
Sumter County Administrator
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

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Dear Administrator Arnold

UF Health The Villages Hospital Auxiliary Foundation is sponsoring the **8th Annual Hearts for Our Hospital Bicycle Challenge**, a charity bicycle ride with organizational assistance from the Sumter Landing Bicycle Club and facility support provided by The Villages Recreation and Parks Department. The event will take place Saturday, November 11, 2023.

This year's ride will **begin** and **end** at the La Hacienda Recreation Center near the Spanish Springs Town Square. Ride groups will begin leaving La Hacienda parking lot at approximately 7:30 AM with all groups departing by 9:00 AM. We anticipate that all participants will return no later than 4:00 PM. The event will include 100-, 63-, 32-, 20- and 10-mile route options. The five route options offer an extremely broad scope of rides and will serve to draw riders from a wide radius, introducing them to the great cycling opportunities in The Villages Community to include Sumter and Lake counties and showcasing the reason The Villages Community recently earned the 2018 Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the Florida Bicycle Association. For your reference, I have included links to preliminary maps and cue sheets reflecting each of the five route options. The routes are similar to last years' routes but, with the assistance of the Sumter Count Sheriff's office, the 32, 64 and 100 have been enhanced for safety reasons. Should you have any difficulty with these links, please let me know and I'll use an alternative method of communication the route information.

The anticipated routes, traffic control issues and plans for coordinated support will be reviewed with Captian. Robert Siemer, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, as well as officials from the Lady Lake and Wildwood Sheriff's Departments. Captain Siemer will be the primary point of contact. An initial review has already been completed and followed by a final assessment with law enforcement and safety personnel from The Villages in the September timeframe. At that point we will finalize plans to put into place a significant law enforcement presence to increase safety for the cyclists. The Sumter County Amateur Radio Emergency

Services (ARES) organization will be partnering again with Law Enforcement. Assets from law enforcement, ARES, and the local cycling shops will be deployed throughout the coverage area of the ride to help manage the safety of ride participants on the road.

There are no road closures anticipated except for a small portion of the Spanish Springs Town Square. The road closure on the Spanish Springs Town Square will be brief and allow us to showcase the Town Square to all the ride participants as they head out. The roads should open to regular traffic around 9:15 AM. The riders will be required to wear helmets and will be instructed to obey all laws relating to bicycle rules-of-the-road. The Villages Recreation and Parks Department will provide Special Event staffing and other logistical support at the La Hacienda Recreation Center. Community Watch personnel will be utilized as needed. Each of the 5 routes will have well stocked and supported rest stops.

On behalf of the organizing committee for the Hearts for Our Hospital Bicycle Challenge / Big Bike Weekend, I seek your approval to provide directional indicators to safely guide our cyclists along their respective routes. The directional indicators will consist primarily of metal staked plastic signs with route arrows attached providing the necessary directional guidance. We will not be placing any route arrows on the road surfaces. Due to uneven surfaces and the potential for damp to wet road conditions, they have not proven to be a reliable means by which to safely mark the routes. All roadside signage will be removed by Sunday, November 12.

We look forward to your approval of the Hearts for Our Hospital Bicycle Challenge charity ride.

Kind regards

Ray Gagnon
Ride Director
Hearts for Our Hospital Bicycle Challenge

cc: Shelly Scarborough, UF Health The Villages Hospital Auxiliary Foundation

Enc: Ride with GPS Route Maps, 2023 Hearts for Our Hospital Bicycle Challenge