

What is the Wish-A-Mile[®] Bicycle Tour?

The Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour is a fully supported bicycle tour along Michigan countryside open roads. There are a various route options that you can participate in during the tour taking place July 26-28, 2024. There is a three-day/300-mile route, a two-day/200-mile route, a one-day/100-mile route as well as a Virtual option for those that can't ride with us during these dates but still want to participate and raise vital funds for Make-A-Wish Michigan.

300-Mile Route

The 300-mile route starts on Friday, July 26 from Marshall High School. Riders will have the option to check-in on either Thursday, July 25 (from 5-8 p.m.) or Friday morning and leave on the route that morning. The first overnight location is in Holland, the second overnight location is in Kalamazoo/Portage and finishing at Marshall High School. Your luggage will be loaded Friday morning and transported to the day-one finish line (same for Saturday and Sunday). Riders have the option to stay overnight at the overnight locations or at an approved hotel along the route (shuttles will run continuously to the approved hotels in the morning and evening). **Staying at a hotel is the financial responsibility of the rider. **Please refer to the Tour Itinerary for official start times for check-in, when the route opens and other important times through the tour.*

200-Mile Route

There are two options for the 200-mile route. You can register to ride Friday and Saturday (July 26 & 27) or Saturday and Sunday (July 27 & 28). Riders will have the option to check-in the night before or in the morning for either dates you chose. Your luggage will be loaded in the morning and transported to the finish-line each day.

As a 200-mile rider you have the option to stay at the overnight locations or at an approved hotel along the route (shuttles will run continuously to the approved hotels in the morning and evening). You also have the option to stay overnight the night prior to your ride starting (Marshall or Kalamazoo/Portage). **Staying at a hotel is the financial responsibility of the rider. **Please refer to the Full Tour Itinerary for official start times for check-in, when the route opens and other important times through the tour.*

Transportation options available to you:

If you are registering to ride on Saturday and Sunday you have the option to meet and leave your car at Marshall High School to be shuttled to Holland on Friday night. There is a separate fee for this service and you must reserve a spot ahead of time. You must arrive at Marshall High School by 3:45 p.m. on Friday to leave at 4:00 p.m. sharp. You will be shuttled to Holland along with your bike and luggage. Rider check-in will be open in the evening and again in the morning.

If you are registering to ride on Friday and Saturday you have the option to be shuttled back to Marshall when you finish on Saturday. There is a separate fee for this service and you must reserve a spot ahead of time. You must be ready by 6:45 p.m. to leave at 7:00 p.m. sharp on the shuttle back to Marshall Saturday evening.

Shuttle fees: A one way trip is \$40 and a round trip is \$60 and you must reserve a spot ahead of time with [Matt Seagrave](#).

You can also post in the [Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour - Fundraising and Training](#) Facebook group if you are looking for carpooling options.

100-Mile Route

There are three options for the 100-mile route. You can register to ride on either Friday, July 26, Saturday, July 27, or Sunday, July 28. Riders will have the option to check-in either the night before or in the morning no matter which day you chose to ride.

As a 100-mile rider you have the option to stay at the overnight location or at an approved hotel along the route (shuttles will run continuously to the approved hotels in the morning and evening). As a 100-mile rider you have the option to stay overnight the night prior to your ride starting. **Staying at a hotel is the financial responsibility of the rider. **Please refer to the Full Tour Itinerary for official start times for check-in, when the route opens and other important times through the tour.*

Transportation options available to you:

If you are registering to ride on Saturday or Sunday you have the option to meet and leave your car at Marshall High School to be shuttled to Holland on Friday or Kalamazoo/Portage Saturday (depending on which day you are riding) night. There is a separate fee for this service and you must reserve a spot ahead of time. You must arrive at Marshall High School by 3:45 p.m. on Friday or Saturday (depending on which day you are riding) to leave at 4:00 p.m. sharp. You will be shuttled to Holland or Kalamazoo/Portage along with your bike and luggage. Rider check-in will be open in the evening and again in the morning.

If you are registering to ride on Friday or Saturday you have the option to be shuttled back to Marshall when you finish. There is a separate fee for this service and you must reserve a spot ahead of time. You must be ready by 6:45 p.m. to leave at 7:00 p.m. sharp on the shuttle back to Marshall on either Friday or Saturday evening.

Shuttle fees: A one way trip is \$40 and a round trip is \$60 and you must reserve a spot ahead of time with [Matt Seagrave](#).

You can also post in the [Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour - Fundraising and Training](#) Facebook group if you are looking for carpooling options.

Virtual Rider

As a virtual participant you pick your own date(s) to ride, your own route(s) to ride and pick your own time(s) to ride. Make-A-Wish staff will help with fundraising tools and training tips. Virtual participants are eligible for all fundraising incentives which can be redeemed in August. Virtual riders also have the opportunity to receive a *Virtual Rider Kit* (which includes your jersey, t-shirt and hero bracelet) if the fundraising minimum of \$750 is met by July 1, 2024.

Virtual participants are welcome to join us at WAMmys on Saturday, July 27 and/or attend Heroes Hurrah on Sunday, July 28. **Virtual participants are not permitted to be on the official Wish-A-Mile route at any time and are not permitted to stay at either of the official overnight locations.** Only 300-mile, 200-mile and 100-mile registered participants are allowed on the tour. You will be asked to leave the tour if you are registered as a virtual participant.

What is the route and when will it be posted?

Final routes and maps are typically posted in early June on the event website (wishamile.org). At any time during the Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour riders are not permitted to leave the route for other routes and/or trails. You must remain on our official route at all times. If you are a virtual participant, you are not permitted to be on the official routes each day. If you need to change your registration status please email Kedrin Gall (kgall@michigan.wish.org). This must be done by July 19, 2024.

What are the registration fees to participate?

| <u>Through Dec 31, 2023</u> | <u>Jan 1-March 31, 2024</u> | <u>April 1-July 24, 2024</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 300-Mile Route: \$75 | 300-Mile Route: \$100 | 300-Mile Route: \$125 |
| 200-Mile Route: \$65 | 200-Mile Route: \$85 | 200-Mile Route: \$100 |
| 100-Mile Route: \$55 | 100-Mile Route: \$65 | 100-Mile Route: \$75 |
| Virtual: \$20 | Virtual: \$20 | Virtual: \$20 |

**Registration fees are not a donation, not tax deductible and do not count toward the required fundraising minimum to participate. All registration fees and donations are non-refundable and registration fees are non-transferable.*

What are the required fundraising minimums to participate?

300-Mile Route: \$1,250
 200-Mile Route: \$1,000
 100-Mile Route: \$750
 Virtual: \$500 (*suggested fundraising goal*)

What if I do not raise the required minimum?

The amounts above are required for all Wish-A-Mile participants. This is a fundraising event for Make-A-Wish Michigan and its sole purpose is to raise funds to grant wishes to medically eligible children in Michigan while having an incredible tour experience. If you arrive to rider check-in without this minimum amount, you will be asked to make a donation for the remaining balance in order to ride. Due to event costs and to ensure fairness and consistency to all riders, we thank you in advance for your compliance. Each rider must have the appropriate minimum fundraising amount on their individual page to participate and not just averaged among the team.

Where do I send in checks or funds that I collect?

Make-A-Wish Michigan
Attn: Wish-A-Mile
20750 Civic Center Drive, Suite 180
Southfield, MI 48076

**Be sure to include your full name on all mailed in donations. Please allow up to one week from the time we receive your check(s) for them to post to your fundraising page. Donations made online will reflect immediately.*

When is rider check-in and what do I need to bring?

Rider check-in will be held throughout the tour on the evening before and in the morning of for each day. Please refer to the *Full Tour Itinerary* for times and locations. Please bring any donations you need to submit. You will receive a packet that contains important items including your jersey, rider bib number and corresponding bike tag (**that must be worn at all times while riding**), luggage tags, your Wish Hero bracelet and more. In order to pick up your packet, you must meet the respective fundraising minimum and fill out the emergency contact information on rider bib. Rider packets may be picked up for other riders if their respective fundraising minimum has been met.

What are the lodging and transportation options?

On-site lodging or camping outdoors is available at the overnight locations. You can also choose to stay at one of the many area hotels that are on our *Approved Hotel* list. If you choose to stay at a hotel that is not on the approved hotel list, the provided shuttle service will not be available in the evening or morning. You must book at an approved hotel to use the shuttle service. The cost incurred for the hotel(s) is the responsibility of the rider.

Luggage Transportation

Your luggage will be transported each day if you are riding in either the 300-mile, 200-mile or 100-mile route options. You'll be given luggage tags at rider check-in and direction on where to bring your luggage each day. **Please refer to our Luggage Policy on the website for more details.*

Food and Support

Each day on the route there will be fully stocked break stops approximately every 10-15 miles with the best snacks and volunteers around! You can relax for a bit, hydrate, use the restroom, wait for your team members or take some selfies! The tour will also be supported with SAG teams (support and guidance), bike mechanics, massage therapists, medical teams and emergency personnel/police to assist you along the route. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will also be provided each day. **Breakfast will be provided on Friday, July 26 and a light meal at Heroes Hurrah will also be provided to all participants and volunteers. (Dinner is not provided on Sunday, July 28).*

What if I can't complete all of the miles on the route?

There are many SAG vehicles driving the route to pick up any tired riders. We also have a complete medical team ready to respond to any emergency. In addition, there will be bike mechanics along the route helping with repairs. Riders can be brought up to the next break stop as needed. If you are hurt and unable to ride, arrangements will be made with our volunteers to provide the best plan on getting you to the end location.

How do I start or join a team?

When you register, you will have the option to select how you would like to join, either as an individual, a member of an existing team, or you can create a new team. Whichever way you choose to participate you may still be part of a team – including volunteers!

If you start a team you will need to select the team size:

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Super Size | 100+ participants |
| Extra Large | 45-99 participants |
| Large | 21-44 participants |
| Medium | 11-20 participants |
| Small | 1-10 participants |

What are the team guidelines?

- All funds must be received by Saturday, July 27, 2024 at noon to be counted toward award designations.
- Each registered rider must have the minimum fundraising amount on their individual fundraising page at rider check-in
- The total amount raised by the team collectively and averaged out for minimum fundraising requirements does not qualify.
- Team captains will have a 48-hour window to determine if any new rider(s) signed up on their team should stay on their roster. Team captains do receive automated emails when someone joins their team.
- Upon initial registration of your team, team captains need to pick their team size category based on how many riders you think you'll have for the tour. However, team rosters will be monitored and teams will be moved into the appropriate size category during the year.
- Once team captains have given permission for a teammate to join the team, they will not be dropped from the roster. If they are unable to ride, their status will change to virtual rider and their fundraising money will count toward your team.
- Team captains can authorize funds to be transferred from the general team account. To uphold donor intent, funds transferred from one rider to another will only be allowed to happen if the donor contacts the Foundation to give permission.
- It is the responsibility of the solicitor to notify the donor of the transfer of funds to another rider.

- Volunteers are welcome to be a part of team rosters and will count toward a spot on your team. Volunteers do not have a required minimum fundraising amount, although fundraising is encouraged.

What fundraising awards are awarded?

The top fundraising team in each category will be honored with a team award. Teams may display their award proudly throughout the year at fundraisers, family events and other team gatherings. Teams are determined by number of members and can include riders registered for any participant type including virtual and volunteers. Awards are also given to the top individual fundraisers for the 300, 200, 100 and virtual participants. All funds must be received by noon on Saturday, July 27, 2024, to be counted for award designations.

How old do I have to be to participate in the 300/200/100-Mile?

Riders must be 13 or older to participate and must meet the following requirements:

- All riders must be able to ride independently for long distances.
- All riders are required to raise the minimum fundraising goal.
- All riders between the ages of 13 and 18 are required to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times on the tour (i.e. if the minor needs to leave the route, the adult must leave with them and vice versa) and stay within 100 yards of them when on the route.
- All riders between the ages of 13 and 18 need a parent or legal guardian to sign the liability waiver at rider check-in.
- All minor riders should read and follow information in the What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know publication. This booklet is brought to you by the League of Michigan Bicyclists, which has been promoting bicycling and the safety of bicyclists on the roadways in Michigan since 1981.
- We highly suggest that accompanying adults are not responsible for more than one minor child rider on the tour.
- No trailers, child carriers, tag-alongs, or any equipment and accessories attached to a bicycle for transporting children or pets are allowed on the route at any time.

What accommodations will be made for riders with disabilities on the event?

When you register, please let us know what special accessibility accommodations you require during the event. Our goal is to make the tour accessible to all.

What are Wish Heroes?

Wish Heroes are children who have already received their wish and will serve as inspiration to riders and volunteers while on their journey. All Wish Heroes are invited to attend the Heroes Hurrah finish-line celebration to award the riders and volunteers with a completion medal.

When will I know who my Wish Hero is?

All of our Wish Hero biographies will be posted in the spring and sent to teams and riders. At rider check-in you will receive your Wish Hero wristband to wear during the tour.

What is the Silent Mile?

We ride and volunteer to honor the brave children and loved ones who have battled so courageously but who are no longer with us. We honor them with a very powerful and beautiful Silent Mile near the finish line. The Silent Mile is a special area of the ride where you can see the names and photos of wish children or loved ones who believed in our important wish-granting mission. These amazing souls have touched all of us and the tribute is a reminder that they will never be forgotten. At the Silent Mile, stars will be placed alphabetically.

How do I submit a star for the Silent Mile?

All registered riders will receive an email with instructions on how to bring photos and provide names at rider and volunteer check-in of wish children and loved ones you would like to honor in the Silent Mile.

What is Heroes Hurrah?

Heroes Hurrah is the finish-line celebration for the Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour. This event is complete with fun family activities, a Kids Zone and more. The crowning jewel is when the riders cross the finish line and are able to meet their wish hero who inspired them throughout the ride. These wish children proudly award the riders and volunteers with a finisher medal.

Can my family and friends attend Heroes Hurrah?

Absolutely! We encourage you to invite your friends and family to cheer you on at the finish line!

Can I use my...?

For safety purposes we cannot allow headphones, child seats, bike trailers, rollerblades or pets on the tour.

Photos from the tour?

Photos from the ride will be posted on our Flickr page a few weeks after the ride. A link to those photos will be emailed when ready.

How old do you have to be to volunteer on the tour?

Volunteers must be 21 or older. Volunteers are required to have a valid driver's license, proof of automobile insurance, complete a background and driving record check and must be available for all three days of the tour. Lifting requirements also apply. There are volunteer opportunities at Heroes Hurrah and leading up to the event that don't require you to be 21. Please visit our website wishamile.org for more information.

Can I leave my vehicle at a location prior or post the day(s) the tour will be on-site at that location?

No, Make-A-Wish Michigan has contracts with the locations to ONLY utilize those locations during the dates and times of the tour. Riders that are checking in at the overnight locations are responsible for their own transportation and vehicles will not be permitted to be left at any of those locations.