

Wounded Warrior Project's Soldier Ride

The Wounded Warrior Project's (WWP) Soldier Ride is a rehabilitative cycling program for wounded warriors and an advocacy program for today's wounded warriors. For many of these combat-wounded veterans, Soldier Ride provides the first and important step in their return to an active lifestyle.

Many of these men and women have been physically active throughout their lives. Soldier Ride offers them the chance to get on a bike and prove to themselves, "I can still do this." Soldier Ride is not about politics; it's not about the war. It's simply about the soldiers. It's about mindshare for the men and women that serve or have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Through helpful support from our generous sponsors and donors, WWP is able to offer these veterans a chance to experience again what they have experienced in the past. Namely, they can taste the fruits of victory and the power of winning and completing a task as they ride their bikes over miles of regionally selected places in the United States; they can feel the unity of teamwork as everyone drives each other to the end, to the culmination, to the climax that is success in completing the road ride.

These men and women are not average. They are the brave and the volunteers that chose to defend the country, to answer the country's call and they have been injured. Now they are taking the next step in their recovery and returning to activity, to the road, and their riding speaks so much louder than words can tell.

These wounded veterans are the embodiment of the spirit of this country and they should make us all proud to say we are Americans.

History

In 2004, Chris Carney from Long Island, New York, completed a coast-to-coast bicycle ride in support of the Wounded Warrior Project. This was the first of what would become an annual event, Soldier Ride.

In 2005, Chris again conducted a coast-to-coast ride, this time with Staff Sergeants Heath Calhoun and Ryan Kelly, as well as other combat-wounded veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2006, Soldier Ride made a third trip across the country, with Sergeant Drew Bridle, Staff Sergeant Yegor Bondarenko, and many more combat-wounded veterans.

In 2007, Soldier Ride switched to a regional ride format with seven regional rides, across the country. This provided the opportunity for increased local participation. Soldier Ride also added registered fundraiser rides to the schedule, allowing the general public to ride along with the wounded veterans and help raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

In 2008, the regional ride format continued and new cities were added. President Bush welcomed the riders to the White House



and called Soldier Ride "The most inspiring athletic event in the country".

In 2009, even more cities were added and the national tour once again started at the White House, this time with President Obama.

2009-2010 WWP Soldier Ride National Tour

Soldier Ride, White House to Lighthouse, Washington, D.C. – Andrews Air Force Base – Annapolis, MD, April 29 – May 3, 2009

Soldier Ride, Denver, CO, May 23, 2009 Event Website

Soldier Ride, Midwest: Waterloo – Milwaukee – Chicago, June 10 – 14, 2009

Soldier Ride, Empire State, New York, NY – Long Island, NY, July 22 – 26 2009: Includes Soldier Ride, Babylon to Beaches, Lindenhurst, NY, July 24, 2009, Event Website & Soldier Ride, The Hamptons, East Hampton, NY, July 25, 2009, Event Website.

Soldier Ride, Little Rock, September 19, 2009
Soldier Ride, Nashville (Honky Tonk), September 26, 2009
Soldier Ride, Carolinas, Ft Bragg – Charlotte, NC October 14-18, 2009
Soldier Ride, Spartanburg, SC (Carolinas Challenge) October 24, 2009
Soldier Ride, High Desert, Las Vegas, NV – Lake Havasu City AZ – Phoenix, AZ, November 11 -15, 2009
Soldier Ride, Sunshine State, Miami – Key West, FL, January 13 – 17, 2010
Soldier Ride, Lone Star State, Austin – San Antonio – Corpus Christi, TX, March, 17 – 21, 2010

Contact Information

Please email Woody Groton, Soldier Ride National Tour Director, at soldierride@woundedwarriorproject.org if you are interested in:

- being a participant in a ride and qualify as a wounded warrior
- being a corporate sponsor of Soldier Ride. Please put "Corporate Sponsor" in the subject line of your email.

Wounded Warrior Project is an organization whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors.
Website: woundedwarriorproject.org

