

Central Bucks Covered Bridges Ride – FAQ

Updated 2/2/11

Q: How do I register?

A: All the information you need will be on our Registration page once it opens, which will be in April.

Q: Where does the ride start and end?

A: The ride starts and ends (with a hot lunch) at Tinicum Park, on River Road in Erwinna, PA.

Q: What type of route does the ride follow?

A: There are five separate routes. The 33, 50 and 63-mile routes follow rolling and hilly terrain throughout Bucks County. Portions of these three rides overlap. The 20 and 30-mile rides are flat rides along the Delaware River in Bucks County and Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The 30-mile ride follows the same route as the 20, but with an additional 10 flat miles (round trip) and an additional covered bridge.

Q: How hilly are the 33, 50, and 63-mile routes?

A: This is Bucks County. It's hilly here. The 33 mile route has approximately 1,900 feet of climbing. The 50-mile ride has approximately 2,800 feet of climbing. The 63-mile (metric century) route has approximately 3,900 feet of climbing. (The 20 and 30 are flat rides; fatter-tired bikes are suitable.)

Q: What if rain is falling or the roads are wet?

A: The Covered Bridges Ride is a RAIN or SHINE event. All services, including rest stops and a hot, tasty lunch at the end of the ride will be provided regardless of the weather. For your safety, please be extra careful if riding on wet roads – especially on downhills and in areas where wet leaves or painted lines are on the roadway.

Q: Can I register on the day of the event?

A: Yes, but it costs less to pre-register. Day-of registration is \$35 for adults, \$20 for under 18 years old. Day-of registrants *may* have the option of purchasing our commemorative t-shirt after the ride is over for \$15, while supplies last. If you register in advance online, it's just \$25 for adults, \$15 for under 18 years old *and* you can also pre-order a commemorative t-shirt for just \$5.

Q: What's all this fine print on the registration form?

A: Please take the time to read the entire form carefully, even if you register on the day of the event. The fine print outlines your rights AND responsibilities as a participant in this ride.

Q: I pre-registered for the ride, but just found out I won't be able to make it. Can I have a refund? Or, can I transfer my registration to someone else?

A: Sorry, but registration fees are non-refundable. If you pre-paid for a t-shirt as well, you are welcome to stop by Tinicum Park during registration hours (see below) to pick up your shirt, even if you can't ride.

Q: What time do the rides begin?

A: Recommended start times are assigned so that riders will be able to take advantage of all services, including food stops and our finish-line lunch. If you leave before or significantly after your recommended start time, these services, and additional safety services, may not be available. You'll be "on your own."

- 8:00 a.m. – 63-mile route
- 8:30 a.m. – 50-mile route
- 9:00 a.m. – 33-mile route
- 9:30 a.m. – 30 mile route
- 9:30 a.m. – 20-mile route

Q: How much time before the “ride start time” should I arrive?

A: Give yourself about 30 minutes to park your car, check in at registration, get a cue sheet, grab a quick bite to eat, and double-check your bike and gear before starting your ride.

Q: Are the roads closed to motor vehicle traffic during the ride?

A: No. All roads are public and open to motor vehicle traffic. It is therefore crucial to ride safely and obey all local laws and regulations. Please stay to the right. No riding more than two abreast at ANY time. And ONLY ride two-abreast when the road is free from traffic.

NEVER cross over the yellow line or mid-point of the road. When traffic is approaching from the front or rear, stay single file and to the right. To help your fellow cyclists, call out hazards such as potholes, gravel, wet leaves, and approaching traffic (from front or rear). Also call out if you're about to pass someone to give them the opportunity to move to the right to allow your safe passage.

If you're part of a large group, consider breaking into smaller sub-groups with a 20-30 yard gap in between so that cars can safely pass.

BEWARE: Keep in mind that local law enforcement will be in the area. Cyclists who don't follow safe and legal cycling rules may be in danger of being fined and/or ticketed.

Q: Where are the cue sheets for the ride?

A: Cue sheets are available next to the registration area. The 33, 50, and 63-mile routes each have their own cue sheet. The cue sheet is combined for the 20 and 30-mile rides.

Q: Why can't I get a copy of the cue sheet before the ride?

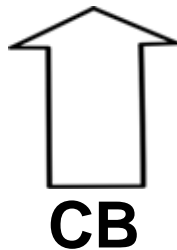
A: We may have to make last-minute adjustments to the routes, depending on road and weather conditions. Cue sheets are not finalized until the day of the ride.

Q: How important is it to take a cue sheet along with me on the ride?

A: While the cue sheets are supplemented by road markings, we highly recommend you carry a copy of the cue sheet with you because it contains important information about the route and what to do in case of emergency.

Q: Road markings????

A: Look for painted marks on the roads. The marks are color-coded for each route: White for 20 & 30-mile routes. Yellow for the 33-mile route. Green for the 50-mile route, and Orange for the 63-mile route. The marks will indicate where to turn (in advance of, and a confirmation mark right after the turn) and will also be placed at intervals throughout straight stretches. Keep in mind that the roads of Bucks County are full of road markings for various events. So that you don't get lost, follow ONLY the road markings that look like this:



Ignore any other style markings you may see on the road.

Q: What else do I need to bring along with me on the ride?

- A:
- 1) Your bike, which should be in good working condition.
 - 2) A helmet. You will NOT be permitted to start the ride without one. NO EXCEPTIONS!
 - 3) At least one water bottle. Our food stops will not supply drinking cups.
 - 4) A cell phone in case of emergencies. [NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH PENNSYLVANIA

VEHICLE CODE, CYCLISTS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED TO CYCLE WHILE WEARING EARBUDS OR HEADPHONES.]

5) Proper attire for the weather. If it calls for rain, bring a rain jacket. If it's cold in the morning, bundle up in layers so that you can peel them off as the day gets warmer.

6) A spare tube, patch kit, tire irons and pump or CO2 cartridges. Even if you don't know how to change a tube and fix a flat, chances are that someone riding nearby will and would be willing to help you, which is MUCH better than waiting for a Ride Support van to fix your flat for you.

7) And last, but not least: identification and medical insurance card in case of accident or injury.

Q: How many food stops are there?

A: The 20-mile ride has one food stop. The 30-mile ride has two food stops. The 33-mile ride has two food stops. The 50-mile ride has three food stops. The 63-mile ride has three food stops. In addition, we serve coffee, hot cider and donuts during the morning registration hours and a full, hot lunch at the end of the ride.

Q: What kind of food and drinks do you serve at the food stops?

A: Each stop features fresh fruit, PB&J sandwiches and home-made baked goods lovingly prepared by our members. Water and sports drink are also available at all stops. Please note that, to help preserve our environment and reduce litter, food stops do NOT have cups available for water. Please be sure to bring a water bottle with you for refills. The hot lunch at the end of the ride includes a meat-based item (ranging from burgers and sausage sandwiches to pulled pork and BBQ) and a vegetarian-based item (usually a veggie burger or black bean burger), side dishes, and something sweet.

Q: What happens if I have a flat tire or other mechanical problem while out on the route?

A: We highly recommend that all cyclists make sure their bikes are in good working condition before you arrive at Tinicum Park. But because mechanical issues DO happen while out on the route, we provide SAG (support and gear) service. The phone number for Ride Support can be found on your cue sheet. Please bear in mind that we have a limited number of SAG vans canvassing quite a large area; it may be some time before a van reaches your location. With that in mind, it's always a good idea when riding to carry a spare tube and to be able to fix your own flat if possible.

Q: What happens if I have an accident and become injured while out on the route?

A: For serious accidents and injuries, call 911. For minor accidents and injuries, first aid kits are available at every food stop as well as the start/finish line, where we also have full EMS support. If your injury is minor, but you feel that you still cannot complete the route, call the Ride Support number to have you and your bike picked up and ferried back to the start location. Please bear in mind that we have a limited number of Ride Support vehicles covering quite a large area. It may be some time before a Support vehicle reaches your location.

Q: I'm tired. Or, I "thought" I could do the 63-mile route, but it's simply too hard. Can someone pick me up?

A: We won't leave any cyclist stranded out on the route. However, due to the limited number of Ride Support vehicles and the large geographic area they cover, our priorities will be to assist those who are injured and those who have mechanical problems first. It may be quite some time before a Support vehicle can pick you up. With that in mind, we encourage ALL event participants – from novice to advanced riders – to be honest about your level of fitness and riding ability before deciding on which route to follow. Also, you should try to make it to the next rest stop, since it's often difficult for riders to describe where they are. Your cue sheet shows the mileage at which each rest stop is located.

Q: This ride sounds like fun! Does the Central Bucks Bicycle Club offer other rides as well?

A: Members of the CBBC enjoy a year-round calendar of group rides and other fun events. We encourage you and your family to join CBBC and take advantage of rides, events and other programs available for everyone from novice riders up to advanced riders.