

## **Gravel Ride Safety Plan**

**Event Date:** 4/12/25 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Event Name:** Spring Launch Gravel Ride

**Start & Finish:** Catamount Outdoor Family Center, Williston, VT

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### **Event Overview:**

**Route:** Williston, Richmond, Huntington, Hinesburg, and Starksboro, Vermont, primarily using back roads.

**Pre-Event Signage:** To be placed one week prior to the event along the route.

**Participants:** Maximum of 250 riders, though we expect fewer for our first year.

**Mass Start Location:** Catamount Outdoor Family Center (Catamount OFC), Williston, VT. 9AM.

**Staff/Volunteers:** Approximately 35 at key intersections and at Catamount OFC.

**Escort:** A police vehicle will escort riders down Governor Chittenden Road, Route 2 and onto Kenyon Road to ensure a safe and controlled start to the ride.

**Sweep:** Catamount OFC staff will sweep both courses with a vehicle to ensure all riders are accounted for in addition to staff onsite taking attendance at the rides finish.

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## **1. Pre-Event Planning and Communications**

### **Pre-Event Signage:**

Signage will be placed at key intersections along the route and around the Catamount (OFC) to direct riders and inform locals and road users of the event.

Additional event-specific signs will be placed near Williston, Richmond, Huntington, and Hinesburg to notify the public of temporary traffic control, possible delays, and rider presence one week in advance of the event date.

### **Event Communication:**

Participants will receive a registration confirmation and a pre-event email with:

- A route map detailing all key turns and emergency contact information.
- Important safety rules and guidelines (e.g., helmet requirement, road etiquette).
- Instructions for riders to report incidents or issues.

Emergency services (EMS, fire, police) will be briefed on event details, timing, and key locations along the route in each town that the route follows.

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## 2. Staffing and Volunteer Roles

### Key Roles:

- **Route Marshals:** Approximately 35 volunteers will be stationed at critical intersections and points of concern along the route (e.g., where roads meet, busy intersections, or any tricky or left hand turns). Their presence at these intersections will alert traffic, ensure riders stay on the correct route, and assist with crowd control at busy points.
- **First Aid Stations:** Set up at the start/finish (Catamount OFC). Riders will be encouraged to carry personal hydration, fuel, and first aid care. Anything that requires higher level medical care will call 911 for service.
- **Lead Vehicle (Police Escort):** A police vehicle will escort the riders on Governor Chittenden road, down Route 2 to Kenyon Road to ensure safety at the beginning of the ride on the busiest sections of road. Riders will spread out from there, eliminating the need for a pacer car.
- **Sweep Vehicle (COFC staff):** A Catamount OFC staff vehicle will drive both routes as we approach the end of the ride to ensure all riders are safe and accounted for.
- **Finish Line Attendance:** A staff member at the finish line will also record finishers to ensure no one is missing.

### Staff Responsibilities:

Volunteers will be assigned to specific intersections with clear instructions for managing traffic and guiding riders. Volunteers will not be asked to stop or direct traffic but will alert vehicles to the event and ensure riders follow safety guidelines and route at intersections.

Volunteers will be equipped with cell phones for real-time communication with event management and emergency services.

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## 3. Traffic Management

**Mass/Controlled Start Protocol:** Riders will start from Catamount OFC, where they will be escorted by police down Governor Chittenden Road, to Route 2, which is a busy road, to Kenyon road. The police escort will help manage traffic, ensuring rider safety during the first segment of the ride.

Once riders have safely moved off Route 2 and onto the back roads, the police escort will conclude, and riders will proceed as directed, spreading out over the route.

### Route Signage & Traffic Control:

- **Directional Signs:** Signs will be placed along the route to guide riders, mark turns, and alert drivers to the event. All riders will have access to the course map prior to the event and will likely use personal navigation devices to help them stay on course.
- **Volunteers at Intersections:** Volunteers will be stationed at busy intersections to alert traffic, direct riders, or communicate with both riders and staff to ensure smooth flow.

- **Speed Limits and Safety Reminders:** Riders will be reminded to keep a safe pace and follow road rules.
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## 4. Rider Safety and Emergency Protocols

### **Emergency Contacts:**

A dedicated emergency contact number will be available for riders and volunteers to report incidents or concerns during the event.

Local EMS and police will be on standby for quick response in case of incidents, already informed and staffed for the day's event.

### **Incident Response:**

- **First Aid station:** Located at Catamount OFC (start/finish area) and staffed by employees with a minimum medical background of Wilderness First Aid certification.
- **Incident Communication:** Ride sweepers will communicate directly with event management to report any major incidents. Emergency response teams will be dispatched as needed, with local EMS services already briefed on the event.

### **Ride Risk Management:**

Riders will be instructed to ride in a controlled and safe manner, especially on gravel roads with variable conditions.

Riders will also be encouraged to ride in the safest fashion along the route(s) to allow for passing vehicles and to avoid collisions. Since this is a group ride and not a race, riders can take their time to make safe choices on the roadway.

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## 5. Post-Event Procedures

### **Finish Line and Rider Departure:**

Once riders return to Catamount OFC, a designated area will be set up for them to gather, receive refreshments, and socialize in a controlled, safe space. Volunteers will direct riders to avoid congestion and ensure a smooth exit from the finish area.

### **Route Clearance:**

Volunteers will ensure all event signage, barriers, and cones are cleared from the route as quickly as possible to minimize the impact on local traffic and pedestrians, but no later than 24 hours after the event concludes.

Staff will conduct a sweep of the route to ensure no stray cyclists or debris remain.

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## **6. Weather and Contingency Plans**

### **Weather Monitoring:**

The weather forecast will be monitored in the days leading up to the event. Any adverse weather (e.g., thunderstorms, extreme heat) will prompt a review of safety measures or the potential for event rescheduling or postponement.

If wet weather is expected, riders will be reminded to adjust tire pressure and ride according to conditions.

### **Contingency Plan:**

In the event of unexpected road closures, hazardous conditions, or emergencies along the route, an alternate route, detour or reschedule will be communicated to volunteers, riders, and towns. Routes were planned with this in mind and have easy alternative routes.

Participants will be updated about any route changes via mass email and/or on-site announcements at Catamount OFC.

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## **7. Post-Event Review**

### **Safety Review:**

A post-event review meeting will be held to discuss any safety issues that occurred during the ride, assess how well emergency protocols were followed, and identify areas for improvement.

A feedback form will be provided to riders for their input on the event's safety and overall experience.