

2021 FAQ LIST

When is registration for the 2021 Tour of Minnesota?

Now through the end of the day April 1, 2021, or unless we reach maximum capacity.

Are COVID-19 vaccines required to participate in the Tour of Minnesota?

No. While getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and testing for the virus before the Tour are recommended, it would be difficult to require that of all riders because of availability issues.

What is the maximum number of riders?

200. (We will also have 10 to 15 staff members, some of whom will ride.)

How long does it take for the ride to fill up?

Last year we reached the full ride capacity of 200 riders in 3 days.

What does registration include?

The registration cost for 2021 will be \$499. This includes many meals on riding days, snacks and beverages at the rest stops, maps, reserved camping sites, access to showers and bathrooms, gear transport to camping sites, SAG vehicle support for medical/mechanical reasons, bicycle repair service, and a commemorative T-shirt. Riders will pay for some of their own meals, snacks, and other items of interest along the way.

Is there an option to pay a partial payment or installments and pay the balance later?

No. Payment in full is required at the time of your registration.

Can I pay by check?

No, we cannot accept checks for registration.

Is there a waiting list?

If we fill up, yes, email the following info to blincoln@tourofminnesota.com:

1. Your first and last name
2. Cell number
3. Email address
4. All names in party.

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The date/time stamp on your email will determine your position on the waiting list.

Do I need to have my own medical insurance?

Yes, riders need to be covered and provide their own insurance for the tour. Riding a bicycle can be dangerous and you assume the risks of being injured on the tour. The Tour does have insurance but it is meant to insure the Tour of Minnesota.

What are the camping arrangements?

We have three options for lodging: tent camping with your own gear, hire our tent porter service for a nominal fee, or stay in one of the Tour-recommended hotels. (See list of hotels at www.tourofminnesota.com)

Do most people camp in tents?

A majority of riders camp in tents at the schools or parks where we stay.

Does the Tour of Minnesota offer a tent/porter service?

Yes. For an additional charge of \$300 per tent (maximum two occupants per tent). You may sign up for the service through a link on the Tour of Minnesota website from March 24 through May 15, 2021 at www.tourofminnesota.com/lodging.html

This service will:

1. Supply you with a tent that will be set up and taken down for you each day.
2. Move your bag(s) inside your tent each day.
3. Your tent and gear will be available at our destination each riding day by noon.
4. Price includes one camping chair per person.
5. Sleeping pads are an additional \$25 per person.

Will the Tour of Minnesota arrange our hotels for us?

No. You will book the hotels yourself, using a list of recommended hotels that is posted on the Tour of Minnesota website at www.tourofminnesota.com/lodging.html. These are the only locations where our crew will drop off and pick up your gear.

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How much does it cost if I want my gear bags shuttled to and from my hotels?

It costs \$5 per day, or \$20 for the week. Please indicate your interest at registration. Payment is due when you arrive and sign in on your first day of the Tour. Sorry, we can only take bags - no bikes.

Can I get my bike tuned up by the ride mechanics?

You should have your bicycle inspected and tuned up by a trained mechanic before the Tour. Tour of Minnesota bike mechanics are only there for mechanical issues that happen during the Tour. You should ride a bicycle that fits you and allows you to ride the stated daily mileage.

Will we get a jersey with our registration?

No. However, you will receive a commemorative T-shirt that is included in the registration fee.

Where do we leave our vehicles?

We will leave our vehicles at Hastings High School close to where we camp the first night. We have arranged extra police surveillance to watch our vehicles during the week.

Is there a tent stake length requirement?

At Hastings High School on our first night, we have a tent stake length of 8" or shorter due to the irrigation systems on the ground. Please measure your tent stakes prior to the Tour.

Are helmets required?

YES! You must wear an ANSI-approved helmet EVERY time you get on your bike, even if it is only for short distances. This also applies on our day off in Winona. Our insurance requires it, and it is just common sense. No exceptions!

Are the roads paved?

Yes, all the roads and trails are paved. There may be short distances on dirt or gravel to get to the trailhead, campgrounds, or to reach a rest stop or restaurants. You can always choose to walk your bike across these dirt sections.

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Is there a fee for the Cannon Valley Trail?

Yes. We will collect \$3 per person at rider check-in on June 18. A fee of \$5 is normally charged to use this trail.

What is the pace of the ride each day?

It varies. We are a community on wheels but this year we may stagger riders when leaving breakfast, lunch, etc.

Is fast riding allowed?

If you want to ride far ahead of the group, you might have to wait for food at rest stops and meals, and you might have to wait for your luggage to arrive.

What are my meal options?

In addition to our "regular" meal plan, you have the option of signing up at registration for a "vegetarian" meal plan for those with different dietary requirements. If you have other dietary restrictions, you may need to supplement your meals.

What time is breakfast?

From 6 a.m. until 7:15 a.m. except on our day off. Be sure to take down your tent and bring your bags to the luggage truck BEFORE heading to breakfast at 6 a.m. Bring what you need for the day to breakfast: a jacket, extra layers, your helmet, money and whatever other items you need during the day, as you won't have access to your bag once it is loaded on the truck.

What is the deal with this morning meeting?

We have a morning meeting between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. each riding day. Please don't leave before this meeting. Not only is it a 46-year tradition on this ride, it sets the tone about our sense of community and how we stick together. Plus, you don't want to miss something important about the upcoming day!

When is lunch?

Lunch will be served roughly between 10:30 a.m. to noon except on our day off. Lunch time will vary depending on the mileage we will cover for the day and the location of towns with parks and facilities.

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What time is dinner?

On the nights dinners are provided, we will begin at 6 p.m. except for our day off AND the day we arrive in Winona. Supper on some evenings will be on your own. In some locations, we may need to eat in waves due to the capacity of dining rooms and current COVID-19 guidelines.

Are there meals provided on our day off?

No, there are no organized meals on the evening we arrive in Winona or on our day off there. There are many dining options in Winona.

Is there anything planned for the day off in Winona?

No. Tour of Minnesota events are not planned for the day off but there will be plenty to keep you busy in Winona, such as breweries, wineries, restaurants, and other attractions. There is a really cool museum. You will receive lots of information in your packet at the rider check-in on Friday.

Will there be showers?

Yes. Each day near our camping area from noon to 5 p.m. Showers will also be open on the day off in Winona. In Red Wing, we will have showers at the YMCA in town.

What is the weight limit for the gear bags?

Individual bags should weigh no more than 40 pounds. We encourage you to bring two smaller bags instead of one huge bag. There cannot be anything affixed or strapped to the outside of your bags such as camp chairs, tents, cots, etc. Everything needs to fit in the bag(s). Each bag should have a label with your name and phone number.

When will our gear bags be available each day after we are done riding?

Gear bags should be unloaded from the truck and available by NOON each day, and NOT before. If you arrive at our destination before that, you might need to wait until the truck arrives and your gear is unloaded.

Can we bring our own coolers?

No. We do not have the necessary space on the gear truck.

Is there indoor camping each night?

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No. Your only options are to sleep in a tent at our designated campsite, hire the tent service at a nominal fee, or stay at a recommended hotel at your expense.

Will SAG (Support and Gear) rides be available?

The Tour of Minnesota will provide you with a SAG support ride to that day's destination ONLY for medical reasons. Being a little hot or tired is not a medical condition. Once you accept a SAG support ride for a medical reason, you are done riding your bike for the remainder of that day. No exceptions!

NOTE: Getting a SAG support ride does NOT mean you will be delivered immediately to that day's destination; you must stay with the SAG support driver while they perform their daily duties.

Can I get a SAG ride to the next town because my friends are there?

No. See above. If you take a SAG ride, you are done riding for the day.

What if I witness a fellow rider have an incident (i.e., crash) or get injured?

If the rider requires immediate medical assistance and no help is available:

- DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY to report the emergency.
- Inform a Tour of Minnesota staff member as soon as possible.

If you come upon an injured rider who is already receiving medical attention, we ask that you carefully keep riding past in order to keep the scene clear, as that would be most helpful. Please refrain from discussing the incident out of respect for the person who was injured.

Is there a medical team on the Tour of Minnesota?

Yes. We have a medical team that can help with roadside medical care. The local police, sheriff, and emergency teams know we are in the area and have our schedule and route in case they need it.

What kind of bike is recommended?

You should ride whatever bike you are most comfortable with that will allow you to complete the required mileage each day.

Can I use a bike that has electric assist?

If you choose to bring an eBike, we welcome them on the Tour but be aware that you should be able to complete the route for each day even if

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your battery is depleted. A low battery is NOT a reason to ask for a ride from a SAG support vehicle. A SAG ride is for medical emergencies only.

Can I bring my own personal driver and vehicle?

No. We are a fully supported ride. Personal drivers and vehicles are not allowed for insurance reasons.

Are there elevation maps for each route?

Yes, on Ride with GPS: www.ridewithgps.com . You can download the files in many formats.

The full route can be found here. Click on show all on map in the bottom left corner.

<https://ridewithgps.com/events/114232-2021-tour-of-minnesota-route-final-3-1-2>

Day 1: Hastings to Lake City <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31003301> (70 miles)

Day 2: Lake Pepin <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31681191> (38/70 miles)

Day 3: Lake City to Winona <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31681302> (74 miles)

Day 4: Day off

Day 5: Winona to Wabasha <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31681401> (45 miles)

Day 6: Wabasha to Red Wing

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31147866> (51 miles)

Day 7: Red Wing to Hastings <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31681159> (35 miles)

Is the route hilly?

Visit link above; each day displays elevation gain/losses. What is hilly to one person may be considered moderate to another.

Can you design a training plan for me?

No. It is your responsibility to attain good riding fitness. Please try to get out and ride at least 3-4 days per week in the months leading up to the start of the Tour. You should be able to ride up to 60-70 miles in one day by the time June rolls around, and you will appreciate having the appropriate fitness.

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Can we camp at a Tour of Minnesota campsite a day or two early? Or stay a day late?

No. Camping in these locations is allowed ONLY for the days the Tour of Minnesota is in progress, because we have obtained contracts and permits with specific requirements in each town. We have arranged specific camping dates with each city/town we will be visiting, and they have not invited us to arrive early or stay late.

Can you arrange transport to/from the Tour of Minnesota from MSP International Airport?

No. It is each rider's responsibility to get to the start of the Tour of Minnesota on their own. Check with the Bob's Bikers group on Facebook to see if anyone can give you a ride. It worked for a few people last year. Hastings is quite close to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Where can I reach you if I have other questions?

Email us at blincoln@tourofminnesota.com

Website

Please visit us at www.tourofminnesota.com