

# THE RIDE FOR MISSING CHILDREN CNY/MV 2010

## Rider & Volunteer "Briefing Book"

Schedule, Instructions & FAQs

May 17-May 21, 2010

*Rev: E. 11 May 2010. Changes to the route and timetable may be necessary due to road/weather conditions and other factors.*

Please read this entire Briefing Book – it contains important information with which you must be familiar.

### Monday May 17

#### Corporate Benefactor, Rider & Volunteer Reception

*Valentino's Banquet Hall – 3899 Oneida Street – New Hartford, NY 315-737-9506*

Across from McDonald's. See directions on page 9.

**5:30 PM – Jersey and Volunteer T-shirt Pick-up**  
(For other times for jersey pick-up, please see page 9)

**6:00 PM – Reception begins**

**7:00 PM – Recognition Ceremony**

Recognition of our Corporate Benefactors, 5 & 10-year Riders, and 5 & 10-year Volunteers.

Local Riders & Volunteers, pick up your jersey and/or T-shirt at this meeting.

### Thursday, May 20

#### Bike Loading 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Valentino's Parking Lot – New Hartford

Driving directions to Valentino's on page 9:

**IMPORTANT!! All Riders' bicycles must be loaded onto our large trucks on Thursday evening to be taken to Troop "D" HQ in Oneida.**

**Please Note: Riders are responsible for wrapping their own bicycles.** You may wrap your own bicycle in old blankets, towels or bubble wrap before you load it on the truck.

**Riders are not to drive to Troop "D" on the morning of The Ride. Bus transportation will be provided (see next item).**

**Shepherds Meeting 6:00 PM Valentino's.**

This is a Mandatory Meeting for all Shepherds

### Friday, May 21 – The Ride for Missing Children 2010

#### 5:00 AM – ALL Riders meet at the parking lot New Hartford Shopping Center

Riders must take buses to Starting Point. Driving directions to New Hartford Shopping Center are on page 10.

#### 5:10 AM Riders with your gear bags get on the buses

Parking is available for your car at designated areas in the New Hartford Shopping Center parking lot. **DO NOT drive directly to Troop "D" in Oneida – there is no parking for Riders there.**

#### 5:20 AM – Buses leave for Staging Area & Starting Point

**PLEASE NOTE: The buses leave New Hartford Shopping Center parking lot promptly at 5:20 AM.**

#### 6:00 – 6:10 AM – Buses arrive at Staging Area

Buses with Riders arrive at Troop "D" NY State Police HQ in Oneida, NY for bike setup.

#### 6:10 AM – Riders prepare their bicycles.

- ❑ Check your bike – make sure everything is set for the 100-mile Ride. Bicycles will be left outside the Troop "D" garage
- ❑ Check tire pressure – you are responsible for pumping your own tires. We will have pumps available.
- ❑ Use the Rest Rooms at Troop "D" **before** we line up for the Opening Ceremony. Bathrooms are located inside Troop "D" HQ.
- ❑ Put your gear bag in the "Gear" truck (this will be pointed out for everyone). Mark your gear bag so you can find it easily. (All gear bags will be put into one large truck that will be available at all Full Rest stops only). **Keep needed medications with you**, not in your gear bag.

#### 6:20 AM – Designated Riders & Escort Riders meet their Families of Missing Children

Please see Jim White at the Podium at the front of Troop "D" Garage

#### 6:35 AM – Riders assemble for Final Briefing

Volunteers report to your assigned areas per your Committee Chairpersons.

#### 6:45 AM – Final Rider Briefing

#### 6:55 AM – Opening Ceremony begins

#### 7:35 AM – Riders Line up 2 x2 and prepare to leave Troop "D"

Please note: We will have approximately 10-minutes after the Opening Ceremony for Riders to quickly use the Rest Rooms before we start The Ride.

#### 7:45 AM – The Ride for Missing Children Begins

## ROUTE SCHEDULE SUMMARY – FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010

Rest Stop or Ride-By	ETA	Site	Comments
Riders meet at Bus Loading Area	5:00 AM	Parking Lot - New Hartford Shopping Center	Be at the Bus Loading area promptly at 5:00 AM. Follow the directions of the Parking Lot Crew.
Buses Depart for Troop "D"	5:20 AM		Buses will leave promptly at 5:20 AM
Rider Buses Arrive at Troop "D" NYSP Oneida	6:00 -- 6:10 AM	Troop "D" New York State Police - Oneida, NY	As soon as you arrive - find your bikes; check your tires, brakes & Chain. Put your gear bag in the Gear Truck.
Rider & Volunteers seated for Opening Ceremony	6:35 AM		Announcements will be made over the PA system giving the count-down to the beginning of the Opening Ceremony
Rider Briefing	6:45 AM		Rider Briefing by NY State Police and Head Shepherd
Opening Ceremony Starts - Silent Tribute #1	6:55 AM		Opening Ceremony with Parents of Missing Children telling you of their Journeys
Depart Troop "D" NYSP	7:45 AM		The Ride for Missing Children CNY 2010 BEGINS
Ride-By #1	9:05 AM	Westmoreland Elementary School	Ride through Middle School and Elementary School
<b>Rest Stop #1</b>	<b>9:42 AM</b>	<b>Clinton Schools</b>	<b>Full Rest-Stop and Breakfast Stop</b>
Ride-By # 2	10:44 AM	Myles Elementary School - Rt 12 B	
Ride-By # 3	10:53 AM	New Hartford Oxford Road	
<b>Rest Stop #2</b>	<b>11:02 AM</b>	<b>Hugh R Jones Elem - Utica</b>	<b>Very short stop - 10" -</b>
Ride-By #4	11:15 AM	John F Hughes at Oneida Street	Students walk up to Oneida St/Ballantyne Brae
Ride-By #5	11:21 AM	Watson Williams Elementary	
Ride-by # 6	11:27 AM	Martin Luther King School	
Ride-BY #7	11:33 AM	Columbus School - Utica	
Silent Tribute #2	11:43 AM	Accacia Village	
<b>Rest Stop #3</b>	<b>12:26 PM</b>	<b>Reese Road Schools - Frankfort</b>	<b>LUNCH STOP</b>
Ride-By #8	1:24 PM	Remington Elementary - Ilion	
Ride-By #9	1:30 PM	Jarvis High School - Mohawk	
<b>Rest Stop #4</b>	<b>1:56 PM</b>	<b>Herkimer Elementary School</b>	<b>Gros Blvd</b>
Silent Tribute #3	3:17 PM	Site before Schuyler, NY	
<b>Corners of Rt 5 &amp; N. Genesee Street</b>	<b>3:31 PM</b>		
Ride-By # 10	3:42 PM	Marcy Elementary School - Maynard Road	
River Rd & Bigelow Rd	3:54 PM	Entrance to MidState Correctional Facility	
Silent Tribute # 4	3:54 PM	Drive way to MidState Correctional Facility	
<b>Rest Stop #5</b>	<b>4:08 PM</b>	<b>Administration Parking Lot - MidState</b>	<b>Rest Stop</b>
Police Salute	5:06 PM	Oriskany Town Park	Fallen Officer Tributes at the end of the Police Salute, Officer Joe Corr, Officer Tom Lindsay, Trooper Jill Mattice, Trooper Robert Gorke
Ring of Hope and Legacy Wreath	5:12 PM	Near Oriskany Elementary School	
Rest Stop # 6	5:24 PM	Whitesboro Middles School - Oriskany Blvd. Regroup Area	Brief stop to use Rest Rooms and regroup before our Ride "Home"
Burrstone Rd & Genesee St	6:12 PM		
Arrive at NH Rec Center - Finish	6:30 PM	New Hartford Recreation Center	We're "Home"
After-Ride Dinner	6:45 PM	New Hartford Recreation Center	All Riders, Law Enforcement and Volunteers are invited
<b>Closing Ceremony</b>	<b>6:45 PM</b>	<b>New Hartford Recreation Center</b>	

## **Rider Jersey -- Volunteer-T-Shirt and ID Badge Pick-up**

### **First-year Riders & Returning Riders that have ordered extra jerseys**

- ❑ Plan on picking up your Jersey at the **Corporate Benefactor, Volunteer, & Rider Reception at Valentino's** (Oneida Street New Hartford) beginning at **5:30 PM Monday May 17<sup>th</sup>**.
- ❑ **Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 10 AM – 8 PM, and Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 10 AM – 2 PM – Sonne's Cycle & Fitness** – Commercial Drive, New Hartford.
- ❑ **Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM – 7 PM at Rider Bike Loading** at parking lot of Valentino's Banquet Hall, Oneida Street, New Hartford.
- ❑ If you are coming from out-of-town, we can arrange to have your jersey at the Registration area at Troop "D" NYSP on the morning of the Ride. Please let us know if this is where you are planning on picking up your jersey.
- ❑ The NCMEC-NY/MV office **will not** have the jerseys on Wednesday and Thursday, as the NCMEC-NY/MV staff will be at schools doing safety programs.

### ***Volunteer T-shirts and ID Badges***

- ❑ Volunteers, please check with your Committee Chairperson or the Volunteer Coordinator to see if you are required to have an ID Badge for your assignment.

## **Emergency Contact Number for Families to Contact Riders: Rules on Cell Phone use**

For the safety of our Riders, **Riders are not allowed to use cell phones while you are Riding.** This is so that all Riders can have their hands ready to quickly reach their brakes, and concentrate on the Rider and road in front of you. You may make calls during all the Rest Stops.

### **Emergency Contact Number for your Families to get a message to you: 315-725-7804**

Please give this number to your families **in case of emergency only. This is a cell phone that will be in the NYSP Police Escort Command Car and in two-way radio with the Ride Shepherds.**-If your Family must contact you during The Ride, please have them call this number. The NYSP Police Escort Director will have the Ride Shepherds get a hold of you and get you to a place where you can safely make a phone call.

We ask all Riders for their cooperation in following this rule for the safety of all our Riders.

**Support Vehicle Drivers are required to follow NY State law regarding use of hands-free devices when using cell phones while driving.**

## **Concentrate on Safe Riding**

1. **Do NOT RIDE "NO HANDS"** – regardless of your riding experience
2. **Do not use your aerobars at any time during The Ride or Training Rides.**
3. **DO NOT USE CELL PHONES WHILE RIDING**
4. **DO NOT USE CAMERAS WHILE RIDING**
5. **DO NOT USE YOUR IPOD. The use of iPods with ear buds, earphones is strictly prohibited during The Ride.** You must be able to hear the Riders calling out cautions and also hear the instructions of the Shepherds and NY State Police. While we appreciate the offer to provide music to Riders around you, this can be distracting and interfere with Riders hearing the instructions from the Shepherds.

## Parking for Riders & Volunteers the Morning of The Ride – New Hartford Shopping Center – New Hartford, NY

We are very grateful to Mr. William Morris and the New Hartford Shopping Center for allowing us to use their parking lot for Riders & Volunteers who need to park their cars while on The Ride.

Please note: there is a change in our parking arrangements for The Ride 2010.

**IMPORTANT: DO NOT** park at the NH Recreation Center.

- Parking for Riders and Volunteers is in designated areas in the parking lot of New Hartford Shopping Center. This is where the buses will come to take you to Troop “D” in Oneida.
- Enter from the Genesee Street Entrance; turn right past HSBC bank and park as close to the tree line to the right as possible.
- DO NOT park in first several rows in front of the stores – especially Ollie’s and the HSBC Bank
- Park only in designated areas see map(Parking Personnel will be there to guide you to the proper areas)
- DO NOT PARK AT TEHAN’S WAREHOUSE OR THE N.H. POST OFFICE – we do NOT have permission to park on Campion Road.
- We suggest leaving a Ride Brochure on your dashboard.



Figure 1: New Hartford Shopping Center - parking area

## **Riders & Volunteers Be at Bus Area at 5:00 AM**

### **Buses Depart at 5:20 AM for Troop “D”**

### **When You Get To Troop “D”**

We will arrive at Troop “D” between 6:00 and 6:10 AM. You will have approximately 25 minutes to find your bike, make sure it is in proper working order, visit the Rest Rooms.

- 1) Find your bicycle; the Bike Crew will have unloaded them from the Trucks:
  - a) Check your tires for air
  - b) Check your brakes to make sure the cables are correctly connected and your brakes are working
  - c) Check your chain – is it on the front chain ring and proper back gear?
- 2) Dress for the conditions for the first leg of The Ride.
- 3) **Tag your bag and your bike! Pink or turquoise as directed.**
- 4) **Place your bicycle outside the Troop “D” Garage in the designated area (PINK or TURQUOISE).**
- 5) Place your Gear Bags in the Gear Truck(s). You will not be able to get to them once the Rider Briefing and Opening Ceremony begins.
- 6) Visit the Rest Rooms – Please Note: Troop “D” NYSP is a “secure-facility”. Certain areas are marked off as “Restricted” -- Riders and Volunteers are NOT to enter these areas.
- 7) Listen to the Announcements over the speaker system. We will be doing a “count-down” to the beginning of the Rider Briefing and Opening Ceremony.
- 8) We will give a 10-minute and 5-minute announcement to the beginning of the Rider Briefing – we need you in your seats and “ready-to-go” at 6:35 AM.

### **Important Note to ALL Riders!!! What To Do When We Arrive At NH Rec. Center**

When we arrive at the NH Rec. Center proceed immediately with your bike to the Soccer Field. Tell your Families to IMMEDIATELY go into the Rec. Center and get seated for the Closing Ceremony. We need everyone’s cooperation in this – so we can quickly get your Families into the Rec Center to begin the Closing Ceremony.

Please note: this year we will have the After-Ride Dinner as we enter the NH Rec Center, followed by a brief Closing Ceremony as we sit with our Friends and Family. Ask your Families to quickly get inside the Rec Center after we arrive. The Riders will come in the side-doors as a “team” while your Families go inside to greet you.

### **Important Notice –**

- **Gear Bags - How are they “Marked” Where do they go?**
- **“How to” Line up Leaving Troop “D”**
- **Arriving and Departing the School Rest Stops**

This year we will use a PINK and TURQUOISE ribbon-system to identify you and your Gear Bag. When you arrive at the Rest Stops your Gear Bags will be unloaded and placed in two separate areas PINK and TURQUOISE so they are easier to find.

When you line up at Troop “D” and at each Rest Stop you will be lining-up into color-coded Groups PINK and TURQUOISE Groups.

### **Ribbons for Gear Bags**

Will be given out at:

- Reception – Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Bike Loading – Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

- Troop “D” – morning of The Ride  
One for you and one for your bike

## **Line-up at Troop “D”**

1. When you arrive at Troop “D”
  - a. Find your bike
  - b. Tie your ribbons on your gear bag and on your bike
  - c. Put your bike in the marked area by color-code
  - d. Use the “Facilities”
  - e. Dress for appropriate weather and temperature
  - f. Place your Gear Bag at the Gear Truck
  - g. Get ready for the Opening Ceremony
2. After the Opening Ceremony
  - a. Groups will be called out to their bikes by color-coded Group (PINK and then TURQUOISE)
  - b. We will line up each group in 2 lines of 2 x 2.
  - c. Follow the instructions from the Shepherds

## **Arriving and Departing the School Rest Stops**

### ***Arriving at Schools***

- Follow your group leader to your color-coded area
- IF YOU GET OUT OF POSITION –
  - Follow you’re the group you are currently in
  - When everyone dismounts the bikes – go to your proper area wher your bag is located – take your bike to the proper area

### ***Departing Rest Stops***

To stay on schedule, it is very important that we line up quickly and efficiently for the start of each of our legs of The Ride. Please carefully read the following: We will be lining up in 2 Groups by PINK and TURQUOISE

- 1) At 5-minutes before we leave each Rest Stop, we will call all Riders to line up.
- 2) Look for the PINK or TURQUOISE signs held by the Volunteers
- 3) We will be “walking” our bikes onto the “Chutes” and lining up into separate 2 x 2 lines in the road or parking lot.
- 4) Our Volunteers will be at the start of the “Chutes” holding color-coded signs. PINK and TURQUOISE. Line-up at the appropriate colored-sign.
- 5) As the Shepherds and Volunteers call out to line-up, please follow their instructions and enter the proper Chute.
- 6) **The Police Escort Team will call for the “Front-of-the-Line” Riders to come to the 1<sup>st</sup> Chute before all other Riders. Allow Riders with the Front-of-the-Pack Stickers to go to the head of the line. The rest of the Riders will form into the Chutes as directed by the Volunteers and NY State Police.**
- 7) When the **Director of Rider Safety** makes the announcement “Mount your bikes”, **get on your bikes and get prepared to start riding.**
- 8) The Ride Shepherds will be coming into the line at approximately every 10 to 15 pairs of Riders – please allow them to get into their positions.

## **Front-of-the-Line Riders and the “Back-of-the-Pack” Club**

### ***Front-of-the-Line Riders***

**We will be identifying certain Riders that we need to have at the Front of The Line as we start each leg of The Ride. These Riders will be identified by a specific sticker on their helmet.**

The Front-of-the-Line Riders are Riders we need in the front for a variety of reasons. Some are slower Riders who we need to have at the front so they can slowly move back in line as necessary. Some others are Parents and Families of Missing Children who are Riding with us.

## ***Back-of-the-Pack” Club***

Faster Riders -- the fun and the greatest view of The Ride is “in the back”. We ask that all the “faster” Riders ride with us in the back and help to close up the end of the line. The view from the back is spectacular!!!!

## **The Ride “Shepherds”**

**The Shepherds.** We have chosen some of our Riders to act as Ride Shepherds. The day of the Ride they will be wearing **white** Ride-logo jerseys so they are easily recognized as Shepherds. There will be two “Pace Shepherds” at the beginning of our line to set the pace of the Ride. Other Shepherds will be placed in the line at approximately every 10 - 15-lines of Riders. The Shepherds goal is to keep us Riding together; prevent gaps in the line; and assist the Riders.

The Shepherds will be in two-way radio contact with the NY State Police Escort. The Shepherds will work with you to adjust your riding pace so we keep a uniform line without large gaps between Riders. Please follow all the instructions from the Shepherds to adjust your pace and keep within 1 to 1 ½ bike lengths between you and the Rider in front of you.

- 1. Our Director of Rider Safety, Greg LoPresti, gives all directions for setting the pace to the Pace Shepherds and coordinates the Pace with all the Shepherd along the line and the Sweep Shepherds.**
- 2. Pace Shepherds:** 2 Shepherds will lead the Riders and set the pace. **Riders are instructed NOT to pass the Pace Shepherds – Do not push the pace.** The Pace Shepherds are in direct radio contact with the Police Escort Director, the Head Shepherd, and are adjusting the pace to keep us together. Do not call out to them to slow or quicken the pace.
- 3. 3-Sweep Shepherds will be at the back of the Rider line.** They will instruct any Rider that cannot keep the pace to get into the SAG Wagon. The Rider will pull off to the right shoulder; the Bike Crew will put the bike in the truck and resume driving with the Riders.

## **Rider Gear Bags**

Bring only one gear bag, weighing less than 20 lbs., with you when you come to the Bus Loading Area at the parking lot of New Hartford Shopping Center. When we get to Troop “D” you will put them in the “Gear” truck that will follow the Riders all day.

You will be give either PINK or TURQUOISE Ribbons to place on your Gear Rider Gear Bags must not weigh more than 20 lbs.

- Do not put bicycle “floor” pumps in your gear bag. We will have pumps in the Mechanics Van.**
- Make sure you have a name tag on the outside of your gear bag

## **Riding Safety Tips and Rules**

Rider SAFETY is our most important consideration today. Each Rider MUST follow all the rules and work as part of the Team.

- 1. Proper Spacing – ideally keep 1 to 1 ½ bike lengths between you and the Rider in front of you.**
- 2. Keep the pace — Don’t let a gap open between you and the Rider ahead of you.** This is very important. Remember, our line of 400 (+) Riders with police escort and support vehicles will stretch almost 2 miles in length. The State Police cannot block off every side road, and drivers seeing a gap between Riders have tried to “shoot the gap”, almost resulting in injury to our Riders.
- 3. If you cannot keep the pace, move to the right and ride near the white line.** Do not ride 2 x 2 with your partner if you cannot keep the pace – if another Rider is staying with you, you should both ride single-file so other Riders can pass around you.
- 4. “20-feet off-the-back” Rule: Riders Please note: Due to the much larger number of Riders this year, it is extremely important that we keep the line of Riders together. If you cannot keep the pace and drop-off-the-back more than 20-feet, you will be instructed by the Last Shepherds to get off your bike and get into the bus. For the safety of everyone – please follow their instructions IMMEDIATELY.**
  - a. “Always, Ride if you can – Sit in the Bus, if you must”.** The Bus is for those Riders that have disabled bikes or who are temporarily unable to keep the pace. While a “planned” Rest is sometimes a good idea, we are asking all Riders to train and condition themselves to Ride the entire 100-miles.

5. **Ride only two Riders abreast {"2 x 2"}**. If you bunch up 4—5 abreast, the middle Riders have nowhere to go if there is a crash, and many riders could get hurt. Riding "2x2" is also very important when going through a populated area— think how impressive it will be as we go through a town riding "2 x 2", evenly spaced, with our New York State Police escort. NOTE: You can change positions and ride with different partners. Please move up and down the line slowly (no sprinting from the back to the front).
6. **Passing other Riders.** If you come upon a slower Rider who is falling off the pace, you and your partner can pass them, but do so in single file. Ask the slower Rider to move over to the right so you can pass.
7. **DO NOT CROSS THE YELLOW LINE on the road. Stay in our lane only. Crossing the yellow line will put you in immediate and certain danger from oncoming traffic or from escort vehicles and traffic that are passing the Ride. Stay in our lane only and follow all instructions from the Shepherds and Police Escorts. Stay at least 2-feet to the right of the yellow line.**
8. **When directed—move to the right shoulder.** The State Police may occasionally bring traffic by us so we won't cause traffic jam. Follow their instructions IMMEDIATELY.
9. **DO NOT PUSH THE PACE.** We will have designated Pace Shepherds at the head of the Ride, just behind our lead vehicle. Other Shepherds will be at the end of the line and at various points along the line of Riders.
10. **DO NOT PASS THE PACE SHEPHERDS.** Our riding pace will be kept uniform at approximately 15–18 mph on the flats. The Shepherds and NY State Police will be in contact by two-way radio, and are working together for your safety and to keep us on schedule. They will control the pace — speeding up or slowing down to keep us on schedule. We must be on time for the school children waiting for us.
11. **CONCENTRATE.** As we go through the cities, there will be a lot of sirens, people waving, and many other sights and sounds to distract you. Enjoy the day, but please concentrate on your riding.
12. **Follow the directions of the Shepherds and the New York State Police.** We have planned and practiced to provide for your safety. Follow their directions.
13. **Keep your hands near the brakes.** Guiding 400 (+) Riders along the road is like moving a giant Slinky. People at the front cannot take off in a sprint, and people in the back must start braking as the front of the line starts to slow.
14. **Do NOT RIDE "NO HANDS"** – regardless of your riding experience
15. **Do not use your aerobars at any time during The Ride or Training Rides.**
16. **DO NOT USE CELL PHONES WHILE RIDING**
17. **DO NOT USE CAMERAS WHILE RIDING**
18. **DO NOT USE YOUR IPOD.** The use of iPods with ear buds, earphones is strictly prohibited during The Ride. You must be able to hear the Riders calling out cautions and also hear the instructions of the Shepherds and NY State Police. While we appreciate the offer to provide music to Riders around you, this can be distracting and interfere with Riders hearing the instructions from the Shepherds.
19. **When slowing down, yell out "Braking" or "Slowing"** to alert the people behind you.
20. **Water Bottles – use only standard "bicycle-specific" bicycle water bottles.** Other water or athletic-drink bottles do not fit tightly in your water bottle cages and can fall out when you hit a bump – loose water bottles are a safety hazard to other riders.
21. **DO NOT LEAVE THE LINE.** If you feel ill or have a problem with your bike, DO NOT leave the line on your own — pull over to the right-shoulder of the road and wait for a Shepherd to assist you. **IF** you have an emergency situation, inform a Shepherd who will help you obtain assistance.
22. **If you cannot keep the pace, get in the "Bus" immediately when instructed to do so by a Shepherd. If you do not, you are endangering the safety of ALL the Riders.**
23. Call out or use hand signals to signal turns or to point out obstacles in the road. People behind you cannot see the potholes, road-kill or other debris. Point them out. Yell them out.
24. Our mechanics can ONLY fix flat tires. If you have a flat or a breakdown you must get in the sag wagon until the next rest stop.
25. ANSI or SNELL approved helmets are required of all Riders in The Ride for Missing Children
26. **In the event of a "crash" in front of you,** call out "Rider-Down" to inform other Riders of a pending hazard.
27. **Volunteers driving any vehicle must use hands-free sets when using their cell phones.**
28. **Enjoy yourself, meet new Friends, and have a great Ride.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE – ONLY OFFICIAL SUPPORT VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED TO DRIVE WITH THE RIDER PROCESSION:** These are the only vehicles allowed in the Ride Procession. No other vehicles will be allowed in the line – this is important for the safety of the Riders and Spectators. Riders, please tell your Families that they are not allowed to drive along.

## **SafetyFest, Closing Ceremony & After-Rider Dinner – 4:30 PM New Hartford Recreation Center**

Invite your Family and Friends to our SafetyFest, Closing Ceremony and After-Ride Dinner at the New Hartford Recreation Center – we suggest they arrive early as parking will be limited – there will be NO Parking in the Mill Street parking lot of the NH Recreation Center.

**Please note:** this year we are having a brief Closing Ceremony *after* we start the After-Rider Dinner – this will allow our Riders, Volunteers & Police Escort to get to sit with your Families and start dinner very soon after our arrival at the NH Recreation Center.

- ❑ 4:30 PM at New Hartford Recreation Center opens for Families waiting for the Riders.
  - Drawing for 2 “road” bicycles, donated courtesy of Dick Sonne’s Cycle & Fitness. Tickets will be on sale at the Recreation Center just before the drawing.
- ❑ The After-Ride Dinner and Closing Ceremony will begin approximately 10-minutes after the Riders arrive – (see schedule). We will begin the After-Ride Dinner as soon as the Riders enter the NH Rec Center. Riders follow the instructions of the Shepherds; we will have a Crew direct Guests and Volunteers to their seats. Please stay and enjoy a retrospective look at our amazing Ride.
- ❑ After-Ride Dinner – Courtesy of many local Restaurants. Guests may be asked for a donation for the picnic. Riders and official Volunteers are free.

## **Driving Directions to Valentino’s Banquet Hall**

**3899 Oneida Street, New Hartford, NY – 315-737-9506**

**Monday May 17th 6:00 PM -- the Corporate Benefactor, Rider & Volunteer Reception will be held at Valentino’s Banquet Hall**

**Thursday, May 20th – 3:00 – 7:00 PM. Bike Loading in the parking lot of Valentino’s Banquet Hall**

**- From Thruway Exit 31 (Utica)**

- Exit the NYS Thruway (I-90) at **Exit 31 – Utica**
- After passing through tollbooth, follow signs to 790 West (Stay to the right after the booths; you will pass under the bridge and turn right at the light).
- Follow signs to New Hartford, Rt. 5 & 12 South (this road is unofficially called the "Arterial")
- Take Route 12 South to the “New Hartford” Route 8 South Exit
- Take Route 8 South to “New Hartford”. Get off at the Kellogg Road “New Hartford” Exit.
- At the traffic light, take a LEFT onto Kellogg Road
- At the next light, take a Right. You will see the Valentino’s sign at the beginning of their driveway

**- From Thruway Exit 32 (Westmoreland)**

- Take a Right out of the toll Booths and a LEFT onto Route 233.
- Take Route 233 to Route 5 (this is the second traffic light – gas station on your left).
- Take a LEFT onto Route 5 heading East.
- Follow Route 5 to Route 12 NORTH. You will see the Utica National Insurance building on your right.
- Take the Campion Road Exit.

- At the first traffic light take a LEFT following the signs for Route 8 SOUTH.
- Take Route 8 South to “New Hartford”. Get off at the Kellogg Road “New Hartford” Exit.
- At the traffic light, take a LEFT onto Kellogg Road
- At the next light, take a Right. You will see the Valentino’s sign at the beginning of their driveway

## Directions to Staging Area – Morning of The Ride

### Parking Lot of New Hartford Shopping Center (off Genesee St – New Hartford)

#### - From Thruway Exit 31 (Utica)

- Exit the NYS Thruway (I-90) at Exit 31 – Utica
- After passing through toll booth, follow signs to 790 West (Stay to the right after the booths; you will pass under the bridge and turn right at the light).
- Follow signs to New Hartford, Rt. 5 & 12 South (this road is unofficially called the "Arterial")
- Take Route 8 South to the “New Hartford” exit for Route 8 South. Take the second exit “Campion Road – Route 8 South New Hartford” – take first Right into NH Shopping Center – look for Parking Crew.

#### - From Thruway Exit 32 (Westmoreland)

- Take a Right out of the Toll Booths and a LEFT onto Route 233.
- Take Route 233 to Route 5 (this is the second traffic light – gas station on your left).
- Take a LEFT onto Route 5 heading east.
- Follow Route 5 to Intersection of Route 5 & Route 12 NORTH. You will see the Utica National Insurance building on your right – **take a Right onto “Genesee St – New Hartford”. Go to second traffic light and left into NH Shopping Center parking lot.**

## Where is the Best Place for Family and Friends to see us Ride?

Family and friends will **NOT** be allowed to drive along with the Riders due to safety and traffic considerations. People wishing to watch the Riders are strongly encouraged to park at the following sites and watch the Riders go by. Drivers **must not** park on the shoulders of the roads – roads must be kept clear for the Riders. Please **DO NOT** have your Family meet you at the school rest stops unless they are designated Volunteers at that stop or you have Family enrolled at that school.

- **Genesee Street in South Utica – New Hartford.** The #1 best way to see The Ride for Missing Children is to be along Genesee Street as we ride down from the Memorial Parkway to the New Hartford Recreation Center.

## Can our Families attend the Opening & Closing Ceremonies?

Yes, the Opening Ceremony begins at 6:55 AM. Family members can park at the shopping mall at the corner of Route 46 & 5, or the mall near Troop “D” in Oneida. There is no parking at Troop “D”. Guests should be at Troop “D” by 6:30 AM.

## FAQ’s: Important Questions you Might have

### Where do we store our extra clothes and gear?

**Bring only one gear bag, weighing less than 20 lbs.,** when you come to the Bus Loading Area at the parking lot of New Hartford Shopping Center. When we get to Troop “D” you will put your bag in the “Gear” truck that will follow the Riders all day.

### What clothes should I bring with me?

Weather in Upstate NY is unpredictable and this is an “all-weather” Ride. Bring warm weather, and cold weather clothing; rain gear, extra socks –remember to bring your helmet!!!! Good Gear to Bring: Bike gloves, extra socks, rain gear, sun screen, lip balm, Advil or Aspirin, towels, extra clothes you may need. Bring spare tubes for your bike.

**Rubber Gloves (like medical exam gloves or dish washing gloves) are very good to wear under your biking gloves in case of rain or cold winds.**

## **What food and beverage will be provided?**

We have Rest Stops (25 minutes) every 13 – 23 miles or so at Schools along the Ride.

At all the “full” rest stops, we will have a wide variety of food and beverages. If you have special dietary needs, we encourage you to bring your own supplies and store them in your gear bag. Bring two water bottles and carry them on your bike.

## **Will there be Rest Room facilities at Troop “D” Yes.**

## **Emergency Medical Services**

We will have an Ambulance as part of our Escort, provided by **Utica Fire Department. Kuyahoorra Vol. Ambulance Corp., and Rural/Metro Ambulance will also be part of our Ride EMT services.** Other ambulance corps from local communities will be “on stand-by” as we ride through their service areas. Let’s ride safely and not need any. The EMTs will have all the Medical Forms that the Riders have submitted. If you have a special medical condition, you may want to speak to the EMT before the beginning of The Ride. **Please Note: the Confidential Medical Forms you filled out are kept in a sealed envelope with the EMTs during The Ride and only opened in an emergency. After The Ride these forms are destroyed.**

## **Yes – HELMETS ARE REQUIRED OF ALL RIDERS**

## **What if I can’t keep the Riding pace?**

If you are not keeping the pace, ride on the right near the white line; if someone is riding with you, you must stay single file so other Riders can pass you. Tell other Riders you are moving to the back and encourage them to pass you on the left.

If you “fall off the pace” and reach the back of the line, the Sweep Shepherds will give you an opportunity to catch up. If you fall back more than 20-feet, the Sweep Shepherds will instruct you to get into the Support Bus and the Bike Support Crew will place your bicycle in the Support Truck. Follow all instructions immediately. You can rejoin the Ride at the next rest stop.

## **What happens if I get a flat tire?**

- o Do not stop abruptly – slow down gradually – Yell out “Flat Tire” to alert the Riders around you.
- o Quickly get to the right shoulder of the road so other Riders can get around you. Get as far over to the right as you can.
- o The Bike Support Crew in the support vehicle will put your bike in the van and replace the tube. We do not carry spare tires – tubes only. You will be in the Support Bus at the back of the Ride, and can rejoin the Ride at the next rest stop.
- o **All Riders must bring at least one spare bike tube for their bike. We recommend bringing two (yes – it has happened).** You may bring an extra tire if you wish and store it in the gear truck – put your name on it. We will have some spare tubes available, but cannot have all types of tubes for all bikes.

## **Bike Breakdowns**

We cannot do bike repairs or tune-ups during The Ride. Our mechanics can only replace tubes. We DO NOT carry spare tires. Take your bike to a qualified bike shop at least 2 – 3 weeks before the Ride and get it tuned and repaired before the Ride. NOTE: many of the local bike shops are very busy with tune-ups and repairs in the weeks and months before The Ride – get there early!!!!!!

## **Enjoy the Day**

You will meet many people and make new Friends. Ride safely, and take pride in the work you are doing:

to make our children safer ...one child at a time”