



Northwest Cycling Club's 2019 Bluebonnet Express Riders Handbook

2019 marks the 30th year the Bluebonnet Express ride has been held making it one of the oldest bike rides in the Houston area. The following information is provided in order to ensure an organized, safe, fun ride

NOW YOUR TEXAS BICYCLE LAWS! IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

At the Bluebonnet Express we plan to have uniformed law enforcement officials at all intersections where there is a stop sign or traffic light in Waller County. All law enforcement will come from other jurisdictions, NOT Waller County. These officers serve at their pleasure and we greatly appreciate their commitment. We are doing everything we can to ensure your safety on this ride. Please expect that Waller County will be out enforcing the traffic laws as they have been with all the MS150 Recommended Rides.

With all of these efforts, please understand that it is ultimately YOUR responsibility as a citizen and cyclist to be knowledgeable of all the traffic laws relating to cyclists and to follow them. Please refer to the link below to familiarize yourself with them. We are looking forward to a great ride!

<http://www.biketexas.org/en/infrastructure/texas-bicycle-laws>

Bluebonnet Express Schedule of Events

Packet Pick Up and Late Registration: Northwest Cyclery 17464 Northwest Fwy @ Jones Rd.

Friday March 29th – Noon to 6:00 pm

Saturday 30th 11:00 to 4:00 pm

DAY OF RIDE: Sunday March 31st – 6:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Event T-shirt

All riders who register by March 14th are guaranteed a free event t-shirt.

FREE Event Photos

After the event, simply go to: <http://www.nwcc-media.com/2017-bbx> and locate your Along-the-Route photos!

Sunday, March 31st Event Schedule

Waller ISD Stadium 20735 Stokes Rd., Waller, TX

6:00 am Parking opens. Enter from Stokes Road Only.

6:30 am Onsite registration and Packet Pick Up opens

8:00 am Long routes leave (open start)

8:30 am Onsite registration and Packet Pick Up closes

8:30 am Short routes leave (open start)

"open start" means that you can leave the start line when you are ready. No "mass start".

11:00 am Lunch will be served in the Waller High School Cafeteria

3:00 Lunch closes

3:00 Course closes. All riders must be off the course.

Course Information

All routes will start and finish at Waller ISD Stadium. Options include 17, 35, 42, and 72-mile routes with fully stocked break points every 10 - 15 miles.

There will be SAG and mechanical support along the course to provide assistance and ride marshals will be riding along to make sure everyone is following the rules of the road.

Busy intersections will be monitored by local law enforcement to aid in reduction of stops having to be made by cyclists. Use caution and follow the directions of the officers. It is ultimately your responsibility to enter and cross intersections safely.

For SAG, call or text our dedicated SAG phone line.

SAG phone number will be published about 2 weeks prior to event.
Call 911 for emergencies

Showers At Waller Stadium in the locker rooms

Freshen up after your ride! Massage Lupe will be available for massages in the Waller High School cafeteria ease those aching muscles! Lunch Provided by Pita Pit 11:00 am until 2:00 pm in the Waller High School cafeteria Pitas Buffalo Chicken / Ham / Turkey / Chicken / Hummus Soup: Tomato Florentine / Spicy Black Bean Salad (with meat or meatless) Chow down and replace some of those calories! Start/Finish Rest Stop with all the usual rest stop goodies at Waller Stadium.

Weather Conditions & Safety

We will never cancel an event based on a forecast. The decision to hold the event will be made that morning and will be based on the safety of the course as determined by law enforcement and the ride director.

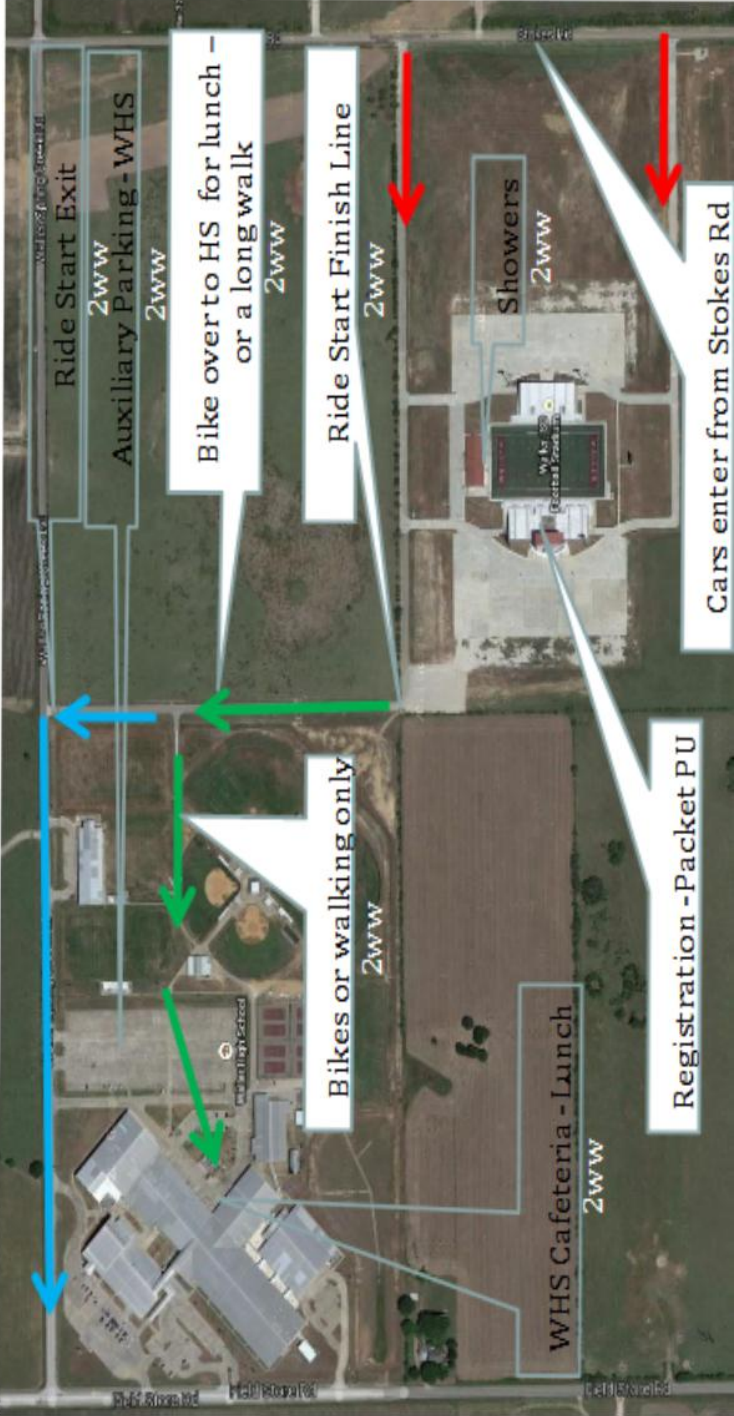
The Bluebonnet Express Ride reserves the right to postpone the ride start, reduce the length, or cancel the event to ensure the safety of its participants. The organizers will do everything possible to communicate any alterations in the event to participants as quickly as possible. In all cases, participants are responsible for their own safety and should use their best judgment in deciding whether or not to continue if severe weather conditions exist. Weather is unpredictable, this is Texas, and rain is a very real possibility. Barring severe weather emergencies, the ride will continue despite the poor weather conditions. Participants should be prepared for windy conditions, temperatures ranging from low 40's to upper 80's, heavy rainfall, fog or a combination of these conditions.

SHELTER

Waller High School Cafeteria

Break Points or other appropriate locations along the route (use your best judgment)

Personal vehicles



Bicycle Safety and Etiquette

Safety is important to us; please obey the rules of the road and help to cultivate the positive image of road cyclists by respecting the local citizens sharing their neighborhoods with us. Below are some general road cycling etiquette rules that should be followed to create a safe environment for all involved.

1. ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET.

2. Follow all traffic laws that an automobile driver would follow including, but not limited to stopping at red lights, stop signs and yielding to pedestrians. In some cases, a police officer will be patrolling an intersection and give riders permission to ride through, in which case, you may, but do so with caution. DO NOT PROCEED UNTIL THE OFFICER MOTIONS YOU.

3. No headphones or ear buds – you need to be able to hear other riders and traffic around you.

4. No skates or motorized bikes, this is a bicycle ride.

WHILE RIDING

5. Be Predictable – smooth, consistent riding is the key to ensuring everyone riding around you feels comfortable and that you are not a hazard to yourself or anyone else.

6. Know Your Limitations – utilize the ride support provided. There will be rest stops with food and hydration along with mechanical support every 10 – 20 miles. There will also be SAG (Support and Gear) vehicles along the course and a phone call away in the event you need assistance.

7. Call Out Any Change – Let your fellow riders know your intentions by calling out, “Slowing”, “Stopping”, “Passing on Your Left”, “On your Right”. Also, call out hazards such as debris, holes, or cracks in the road. Other common call outs include, “Car up”, and “Car Back”

8. Signal – Be sure to signal with your hands and or your voice to let others know your intentions.

9. Do Not Overlap Wheels – Pay attention to the position of your front wheel vs. the back wheel of the person in front of you. One slip and everyone around you could fall. To be safe, leave at least one foot of distance between your front wheel and the back wheel of the ride in front of you. The Bluebonnet Express routes are on open roadways, so please respect our motorized friends.

10. Stay to the Right – Ride as far to the right as practical, unless making a left hand turn or avoiding hazards in the road. If you must stop, do your best to move off the road when you do.

11. Crossing Fast-Moving Traffic – There are a few points on the routes where you may encounter cross traffic. These intersections will be monitored by police officers. Please make sure that you use caution when crossing the road and follow the directions given by the officers.