



October 26-29, 2017

Ride for Christ (RFC) is an annual fundraising bicycle ride during UGA's Fall Break. 2017 will mark the 17th year of the ride! Each year students from Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) travel together to Jacksonville, spending the long weekend cycling, fellowshiping, and culminating with cheering on the Dawgs in the GA/FL football game. It is "300 miles in 30 hours" to raise funds to support SendMeNow collegiate missions! This year, the first wave will leave Watkinsville at 8:30am on Thursday, October 26th and arrive in Jacksonville mid-afternoon on Friday, October 27th. While it sounds daunting to cycle so far, this promises to be one of the most memorable adventures in which you will ever have the opportunity to participate! It is such a memorable trip, each year we have alumni return to Athens to ride with us.

The ride is fully supported with food, snacks, energy drinks, water, and equipment for simple repairs in route. We caravan down together in vans and buses with riders often taking turns on a bike. We take back roads where possible, offering the safest route available, stopping every 15 – 25 miles for breaks and for riders to switch on and off with partners (if they so choose), or to ride a segment or two in a vehicle. And yes, we even ride through the night! At night the cyclists caravan between two well-marked vehicles. Believe it or not, some people have actually ridden the whole 300 miles joining the coveted "300 Club" and having their name engraved on a plaque and displayed in the BCM!

Fees and Donations (Deadline: October 12th at NOON)

Because this event is a fundraiser everyone who participates contributes both to the cost of the trip as well as donating to the SendMeNow Collegiate Missions Fund. In lieu of asking for "goals" for giving, a few years ago we set a minimum participation cost for each person. **The minimum donation to participate is \$300.00.** Of course, the more money each participant raises, the more we can give to missions! The cost of participation includes an event t-shirt, transportation to and from Jacksonville*, meals, snacks, and sports drinks in route to Jacksonville, as well as two nights at the Red Lion Hotel in Jacksonville (4 students per room; participants are responsible for any additional expenses in Jacksonville and in route home). Any profit above our expenses (as well as additional donations raised) will go to the SendMeNow summer missions fund of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. Students are encouraged to seek donations and sponsorships from family, friends, and businesses to help raise their participation fee as well as other monies for this great cause (see the information below on sponsorships).

Items due by NOON on October 12: online registration, minimum \$300, medical form, copy of medical insurance card (front & back), and if driving: Motor Vehicle Report form and copy of driver's license.

Georgia/Florida tickets *may* be available through the BCM for an additional cost (Sometimes we are able to buy tickets from UGA at face value. If we are able to acquire them this year, we will have a limited number).

Participation

Anyone can participate in RFC. We have spots for *cyclists, drivers, and encouragers*. We have had family members, church staff, and friends from other schools join us in past years. Here are details of the ways Athens area collegians can be involved:

Cyclists may choose to ride as much or as little as they are comfortable doing. Most segments are between 15-25 miles (based upon the difficulty of the terrain and the availability of safe places to stop). *Cyclists must wear helmets and padded bike shorts and have front and rear bike lights and at least one flexible water bottle.* These items may be ordered through the BCM website (from *Sunshine Bikes*) at a deeply discounted price by October 6. Go ahead and dust off that old bike from home, jump on a trainer, or join a spin class and get in shape! Cory Benson (770-605-9951) and Larsen Vaughn (770-605-9951) will be conducting practice rides at 2:00pm at Colham Ferry Elem. in Watkinsville on 9/3, 9/17, 10/01/, and 10/15. Contact them to join a ride or schedule other practice rides. While you can train on any two wheeled bicycle or spin bike, ***we require road bikes for the trip.*** If you don't have a road bike, don't worry! You can borrow one from a friend, partner with someone who has a bike (and is close to your height), or possibly "rent" one from a store here in Athens but there is a limited amount available.

Drivers: Drivers of all vehicles must complete and pass a Motor Vehicle Report to be able to drive (even your own vehicle). It is essential that we have lots of approved drivers to rotate driving responsibilities during the 30 hour ride. We will also need some participants to volunteer to bring their large personal vehicles for the journey. Additional drivers will be needed for these vehicles as well. See Nathan (706-549-2747, nbyrd.bcm@gabaptist.org) or Micah Houghton (micahhoughton96@gmail.com, 706-969-3131) if you are interested in driving or providing a vehicle for the trip.*

Encouragers will help to create an all-around positive atmosphere while setting up and breaking down water and snacks for our stops between segments. Talk to Megan Lashley (meganel@uga.edu, 770-283-7961) to be a part of the encouragement or hospitality teams.

Participants are welcome to switch between roles throughout the trip if they wish. We often have folks ride a few segments and then encourage or drive the rest of the time.

Sponsorships

The BCM encourages all RFC participants to raise funds for the trip rather than just pay out of pocket. This helps us get the word out about summer missions and opens up the possibility to exceed the minimum per-person cost of the trip. Since this is primarily a fundraiser for missions, the more money raised the better! There are lots of creative ways you can raise money in addition to asking family and friends to sponsor your ride. Talk to our fundraising coordinator, Morgan West (mlw98351@uga.edu, 706-969-8283) for ideas. Donations from your sponsors may even be tax-deductible.

Donations of supplies and services are also welcomed and appreciated (see a planning team member for details).

Businesses or individuals who donate \$100 or more may have their name or logo included on the Ride for Christ event shirt. Logos may be submitted to Linsey at llee.bcm@gabaptist.org. **To be included on the shirt, logos and donation must be submitted by October 10, 2017.** Donors of \$150 or more will receive a complimentary event shirt.

***Vehicle and Driver Guidelines:**

- Covered transportation is in BCM approved vehicles. Unapproved vehicles may not accompany the group. For each personal vehicle, we must have proof of insurance and a letter from the owner which:
 1. Provides BCM his/her consent to allow a Ride for Christ volunteer to drive his/her personal vehicle
 2. Demonstrates the understanding that his/her personal insurance on the car will be primary for the duration of the trip.
- All drivers must also be preapproved after a Georgia Baptist Convention Motor Vehicle Report (MVR).
- See Nathan for more details.

www.ugabcm.org/ride-for-christ