

Navigation

We utilize a variety of means to help our riders safely navigate each route. No system is perfect in itself – riders must take advantage of the tools available and take charge of their own navigation, even as we seek to help one another.

There are several types of navigation aids available that we will discuss below. **We require all riders to utilize a GPS-based form of navigation** (#1 or #2 below), and may use the others as supplemental.

1. Ride with GPS App

Ride with GPS is the most popular tool for creating cycling routes, and it's what we use to create the route that you'll ride each day. Some of the advantages of this system:



- Free access to all our riders to the paid navigational features of the app
- Can be used on almost any smartphone
- Full map details, including Google Map view, satellite view, and more
- GPS-tracking follows your exact place on the map
- Easy to load and find the routes
- Spoken turn-by-turn directions (free on our routes)
- Offline mode available to save battery life (free on our routes)
- Allow family and friends to follow your journey through Live Logging (free on our routes)

Tips for Use (Click links for visuals or more instructions)

- A. Mount your phone. [To your handlebars](#) (\$8 – 30) or in [a frame bag](#) (\$15 – 30).
- B. Save your battery. [Utilize offline maps](#) by downloading routes ahead. Practice with [this sample route](#).
- C. Supplement your battery with [a battery phone case](#) (\$30-60) or [power-bank](#) (\$10-60) in a frame bag.
- D. Find routes easily by following/RSVPing to the Ride with GPS event [collection](#).

Note: To prevent route edits after riders have already downloaded them, we email out the routes and event collections shortly before the event or segment begins.

2. Standalone GPS-Based devices for bicycles (Garmin, Wahoo, etc.)

These devices are generally great navigation tools that come ready-made for handlebar mounting. Many riders are familiar with these devices already, and they also save you from using your phone battery for navigation. As an added bonus, it keeps your phone safe and easily available for taking pictures!

The major downside is that they come at a purchase cost in the hundreds of dollars, so we tell riders that these devices are great but not necessary if you use the Ride with GPS app. One other pitfall is that many riders need help loading the daily maps onto their device. We can help with that, but ideally riders purchase Bluetooth-capable models and will know how to utilize their own device prior to arriving. (See tutorials on how to [load Garmin](#) or [load Wahoo](#) wirelessly.)

Though some riders utilize both Ride with GPS App and a standalone device, either/or is totally fine.

3. Paper Route Sheets (Cue Sheet)

That's right, we still produce a paper route sheet each day that has a few important phone numbers as well as all the turns and your destination. This is a great back-up if batteries die, or just for quick reference along the way. Here's a sample cue sheet with explanations

The ID gives you something to look for at the turn when possible. See "ID Column Explainer" at page bottom.

The / means the road has multiple names, often starting with one name and changing as you continue

The total miles elapsed at the point of the turn

The distance on this road until the next cue/instruction.

[SAMPLE] Day 3- Julian CA to Brawley CA				
Total	Turn	ID	Notes	Dist.
0.1	Left	T	Turn left onto Oceanview/First Ave / Jimmy Dr	1.1
1.1	Right	SS	Turn right onto Main St	23.3
24.5	Left	RS	Rest Stop- Parking Lot- No RR	19.8
44.2	Right	RR	Rest Stop- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail	7.1
51.4	Right	SS	Turn right onto CA-78 E/CA-86 S (signs for Brawley/Calexico)	15.8
67.1	Right	RR	Rest Stop- Arco Fuel Station	7.1
74.2	Straight	TL	Continue onto Main St	0.3
74.4	Left	TL	Turn left onto N 3rd St	
74.5			First Presbyterian Church 301 Main St, Brawley CA 92227	
			Support Driver: 123-456-7890	
			Trip Leader: 098-765-4321	

Your destination / host facility

Important phone numbers should you need to borrow a stranger's phone or don't have the numbers saved in yours.

ID Column Explainer

T – a T in the road

CW – Cross Walk

SS – Stop Sign

RS – Rest Stop

RR – Restroom

TL – Traffic Light

U – a U turn

Y – a Y split in the road

O – a traffic circle

ZZ – Zig Zag (two quick turns in succession)

4. Chalking

We provide chalk for all riders for use in communication and encouragement. Lead riders mark turns on the ground as they go with arrows and an "FC" (Fuller Center) whenever it is safe for them to do so. This can be very helpful in reinforcing the route and clarifying any ambiguities so that we all stick together.

Chalk arrows are intended only to confirm your course, not to be your primary source of navigation!

Do not plan to ride merely following the chalk without other navigation.