
GRAVEL DAY SAFETY GUIDELINES

Be Aware

- Know where other riders and vehicles are and keep an eye on traffic patterns
 - Don't wear headphones, bring a speaker, or talk on a cell phone while riding
 - Be conscious of wildlife, especially in heavily wooded areas, and keep a safe distance from any animals you may encounter
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Be Predictable

- Be predictable to vehicles and cyclists around you by following Ohio traffic laws
 - Pay attention to public safety personnel, staff and Pelotonia road signs
 - Let other riders know when you are slowing, stopping, or turning and if a crossroad is clear using physical and verbal cues
 - Use hand and verbal signals (Left, right, stop, slow, clear, car up, car back, point down to indicate hazards)
 - Watch out at intersections and call "clear" loud enough for others to hear
 - Gravel riders should feel comfortable with climbs and descents on loose gravel, understand cornering on various terrains, and know how to ride safely within tire ruts on unpaved roads
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Be Visible

- Wear reflective gear or bright colors and stay visible to drivers and other cyclists
 - Use bicycle lights to draw extra attention to your presence on the road
 - Walking your bike (affectionately known as "hike a bike") up steep hills is 100% acceptable in gravel riding, but be sure you're doing so off to the side of the road
 - Never stop or walk in traffic lanes, even though it may feel like you're the only one out there!
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Be Prepared

- Carry a well-packed kit with tools to repair minor breakdowns, plenty of water and nutrition, and a GPS device with offline capabilities for gravel routes with no cell service
 - Help other Riders when possible (call SAG, help with repairs, etc.)
 - Assist but do not move injured riders, call the Pelotonia hotline number +1 855-889-RIDE (7433) and 911
 - Properly outfit your bike with tires at least 35mm wide and check your bike thoroughly before every ride
 - Know your ability!
 - Our gravel routes are tough – train appropriately and don't wait to try out gravel for the first time at Gravel Day
 - Go on a few gravel training rides, follow a training plan, and seek advice from seasoned riders often
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Ride Safe

- Always wear a helmet
- Call out obstacles in your path to other riders
- Avoid overlapping wheels – leave space between your bike and others
- Ride single or double wide, never three or more across
- Use single file when cars pass