



## Rotary International District 5500 Ride to End Polio FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### 1. **What is the Ride to End Polio?**

The Ride to End Polio is a bicycling fundraiser hosted by [Rotary District 5500](#) and held each November in Tucson, Arizona, USA, in conjunction with [El Tour de Tucson](#), one of the largest annual bicycling events in the US. El Tour, organized by [Perimeter Bicycling Association](#) of America, annually attracts more than 8,000 cyclists. In 2017, 125 Rotarians came from as far as Germany, France and Australia to ride in the event. Cyclists can ride distances ranging from a half-mile fun ride to the full 100 miles and typically collect pledges for each mile ridden. If you can't make it to Tucson you can participate by riding a stationary bike in your home or gym and collect pledges for the number of minutes you ride. In addition to the ride itself, District 5500 puts on a celebration banquet on the eve of the ride, provides food, drink and massage for Rotarians at the finish line, and staffs the largest aid station on the ride. There are lots of volunteer opportunities for Rotarians, friends and family not riding in the event.



### 2. **How can my club or district participate?**

Clubs and Districts have formed and sent teams of cyclists to ride in Tucson and staged Indoor Rides around the world. One of the largest teams that participates regularly in Tucson is comprised of Rotary International staff. The event is also embraced by the Rotary Cycling to Serve Fellowship that encourages its members to participate, and that has supported the ride with contributions to cover operating costs.

### 3. **How can I register?**

Go to the "registration" tab at <http://ridetoendpolio.org>. Note that to ride for Rotary YOU MUST use the special Rotary application available at that site. Please do not register directly with Perimeter Bicycling.

### 4. **How does this event raise funds to support Rotary's top priority, the eradication of polio?**

Each Tucson cyclist solicits donations to PolioPlus in support of the ride for each mile ridden. Indoor cyclists solicit donations for each minute ridden on a stationary bike.

### 5. **How are contributions made?**

To ensure proper Paul Harris credit for donors (and credit to clubs), District 5500 recommends that contributions be made online through special fund raising pages at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). On or around July 1 we will post instructions for setting up your personal fund raising page. Cyclists can then provide a link to that page to individuals who wish to support their ride. Alternately, contributions can be made directly to the Rotary Foundation or turned in to the cyclist's local club or district foundation and the amounts reported to the Ride to End Polio fund raising chair.

### 6. **How are the contributions tracked?**

Contributions made online in support of cyclists are tracked by District 5500 and by Rotary International. Cyclists who choose not to use the online fund raising pages are asked to track their contributions and pledges and report those to District 5500. Indoor riders that are part of a team are asked to report their contributions to their team captain, who will report totals online or to District 5500 if the online page is not used. Individual Indoor cyclists not affiliated with a team may create an online page or report contributions independently to District 5500. The Ride to End Polio fund raising chair will request those totals from time to time.

### 7. **How long must a participant ride?**

Riders can choose from a variety of distances including: 25, 50, 75 or 100 miles. Those who ride infrequently can choose a ¼ mile or 5 mile Fun Ride. Indoor cyclists can ride up to 90 minutes.

**8. *Where and When is the Ride to End Polio?***

The Ride to End Polio, along with all of El Tour de Tucson takes place on the Saturday in November prior to the Thanksgiving holiday in Tucson, AZ. In 2017 that will be on November 17.

**9. *Is there a registration fee?***

The registration fee for Rotarian cyclists is \$145. The last day to register is October 31, at which time we must have your registration fee AND you completed, mailed application. The majority of the registration fee goes to Perimeter Bicycling to help pay the significant costs associated with the ride. A small portion goes to the Primary Beneficiary, which is Easter Seals. No part of the registration fee goes to PolioPlus.

**10. *Who can ride for Rotary?***

Anyone can be a member of the End Polio Now Team. Your club or district team can include Rotarians, family members (parents, children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc) and friends, Rotaractors and Interactors.

**11. *What support is provided by District 5500?***

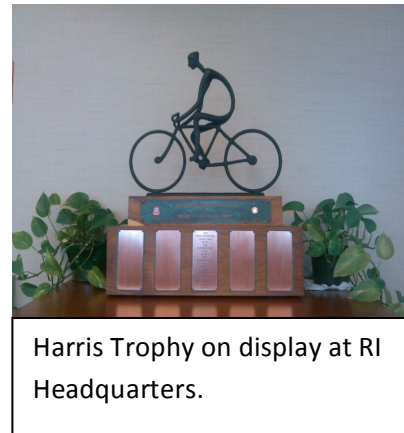
District 5500 will provide a fundraising packet to each cyclist, each Indoor team leader and each individual Indoor rider not affiliated with a team. The packet includes strategies for success, procedures for setting up and using an online fund raising page hosted by Rotary International and a sample fundraising letter. The District publishes a periodic newsletter with information about the ride and our fundraising progress and provides a no-host celebration banquet on the eve of the ride as well as refreshments and massage at the finish line.

**12. *What recognition is provided?***

The names of top individual fundraisers and the top fundraising club and district participating in the Indoor Ride to End Polio are inscribed on the Harris Trophy on display at Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, IL, USA. In addition, top fundraisers will be recognized on the Ride to End Polio website and in the Ride to End Polio newsletter.

**13. *What is the Harris Trophy?***

On display at Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, the trophy honors the legacy of Rotarian Michael J. Harris, who founded the Ride to End Polio in 2009.



**14. *Is special cycling clothing available for riders?***

Riders can order End Polio Now jerseys, bibs, shorts and running shirts at [www.ridetoendpolio.org](http://www.ridetoendpolio.org). Click on the “clothing” tab and follow the instructions to order. Please order early as clothing is manufactured to order and takes approximately five weeks from the date of order.

**15. *What fundraising successes have been achieved?***

In 2017 the Ride to End Polio raised US\$11.7 million including the Gates Foundation match. Since its inception, the event has raised more than US\$45 million, enough to purchase more than 50 million doses of polio vaccine.

**16. *What is the fundraising goal for 2018?***

District 5500 has set a fund raising goal of US\$10 million including the Gates Foundation match.

**17. *Will funds raised qualify for the Gates Foundation match?***

Yes. The Gates Foundation provides a 2:1 match for all funds donated by Rotarians to PolioPlus (up to \$50 million).

**18. *What perks are provided by El Tour de Tucson?***

Each registered cyclist receives an El Tour Tee shirt at packet pickup. Cyclists who finish the ride receive a beautiful brass medal at the finish line. Indoor cyclists in the continental US who elect to pay the small Perimeter Bicycling registration fee may receive a completion certificate and a beautiful commemorative medal. More details on the web at <http://ridetoendpolio.org>.