



# WAM 300

## Frequently Asked Questions



### How long is the Wish-A-Mile® (WAM) 300 bike tour?

Each day will be approximately 100 miles of riding, for a 300 mile total bike tour.

### What does Make-A-Wish provide?

- WAM 300 cycling jersey
- Event t-shirt
- Lodging at schools
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner each day
- Fully stocked break stops every 10 - 15 miles (approximately)
- SAG vehicles (support and guidance along the route)
- Medical support along the route
- Police support
- Bicycle mechanics
- Massage therapists
- Cheering volunteers
- Wish Hero meet and greet at Heroes Hurrah
- Finisher medal
- Heroes Hurrah finish line celebration

WAM receives limited sample quantities and flavors of donated items from product sponsors such as Clif Bar, Gu, and Butt Butt'r. Please bring any additional energy/protein and carbohydrate products that you prefer for your own personal use while on tour.

### Do I have to complete all 300 miles of the route?

There are many Support and Guidance (SAG) vehicles driving the route to pick up any tired riders. We also have a complete medical team ready to respond to any emergency. In addition, there will be bike mechanics along the route helping with repairs. If 300 miles is not for you, check out our one day WAM 50 mile ride.

### What is the WAM 300 route?

The start, finish and overnight locations:

Thursday, July 22	Travel Day: EATON Proving Grounds (Marshall) to Traverse City East Middle School (Traverse City)
Friday, July 23	Ride Day 1: Traverse City East Middle School (Traverse City) to Ferris State University (Big Rapids)
Saturday, July 24	Ride Day 2: Ferris State University (Big Rapids) to Grand Ledge High School (Grand Ledge)
Sunday, July 25	Ride Day 3: Grand Ledge High School to EATON Proving Grounds (Marshall)

We will continue to work throughout the year on specific details, including turn by turn route directions. Updates will be posted on the website and more details will be sent in our WAM email newsletters (WAM Insider) as they become available. Routes are typically posted in June.



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### What is the registration fee and is it considered a donation?

The WAM 300 rider registration fee is as follows:

Oct 1 through December 31 (early bird special): \$75.00  
January 1 through July 20: \$95.00  
Day of: \$115.00

This fee is not a donation, not tax deductible and does not count towards your required fundraising minimum of \$1,200. All registration fees and donations are non-refundable and registration fees are non-transferable.

### What if I do not raise the required minimum of \$1,200 for the WAM 300 tour?

This amount is a requirement for all WAM 300 riders. WAM is a fundraising event for Make-A-Wish Michigan. Its sole purpose is to raise funds to grant wishes to medically eligible children in Michigan while having an incredible tour experience. If you arrive to rider check-in without this minimum amount, you will be asked to make a donation for the remaining balance in order to ride. If you are not able to provide this and have raised the minimum for the other routes, you may participate in our one-day, WAM 50 mile ride. If your donation total is under \$500, you will not be able to participate in any route. Due to event costs and to insure fairness and consistency to all participants, we thank you in advance for your compliance. Each rider must have the appropriate minimum fundraising amount on their individual page to participate and not just averaged among the team.

### Where do I mail in checks?

Make-A-Wish Michigan  
Attn: WAM  
7600 Grand River Avenue, Suite 175  
Brighton, MI 48114

\*Be sure to include your full name on all mailed in donations.

### When will my mailed in donations show up on my webpage?

Please allow up to two weeks from the time we receive your checks for them to post to your account and webpage. Online donations will reflect immediately on your webpage.

### Am I able to ride in the WAM 300 as a member of a team who is also participating in the WAM 50?

Yes, when you register for the WAM 300 you will have the option to select how you would like to join, either as an individual, a member of an existing team, or you can create a new team. Whichever way you choose to participate in WAM, 300 rider, 50 rider, WAM Jr. rider, volunteer or virtual participant you may still be part of a team.

### What are the team sizes?

Super Size	100+
Extra Large	45 - 99
Large	21 - 44
Medium	11 - 20
Small	1 - 10

### What are the team guidelines?

- All funds must be received by Saturday, July 24 at noon to be counted towards award designations.
- Each registered rider must have the minimum fundraising amount on their individual fundraising page at rider check-in. (\$1,200 for WAM 300 participants, \$500 for WAM 50 participants and \$50 for WAM Jr. participants). Virtual participants are encouraged to raise \$500.



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- The total amount raised by the team collectively and averaged out for minimum fundraising requirements does not qualify.
- Team captains will have a 48 hour window to determine if any new rider(s) signed up on their team should stay on their roster. Team captains do receive automated emails when someone joins their team. To discuss team rosters at any time please contact Kedrin Gall at [kgall@michigan.wish.org](mailto:kgall@michigan.wish.org).
- Upon initial registration of your team, team captains need to pick their team size category based on how many riders you think you'll have for the tour. However, team rosters will be monitored and teams will be moved into the appropriate size category during the year.
- Once team captains have given permission for a teammate to join the team they will not be dropped from the roster. If they are unable to ride their status will change to virtual rider and their fundraising money will count towards your team.
- Team captains can authorize funds to be transferred from the general team account but to uphold donor intent funds transferred from one rider to another will only be allowed to happen if the donor contacts the Foundation to give permission.
- It is the responsibility of the solicitor to notify the donor of the transfer of funds to another rider.
- Volunteers are welcome to be a part of team rosters and will count towards a spot on your team. Volunteers do not have a required minimum fundraising amount, although fundraising is encouraged.
- WAM Jr. participants can be added to team rosters or they can be encouraged to set up their own team.

### What fundraising awards are awarded?

The top fundraising team in each category will be honored with a team trophy. Teams may display their trophy proudly throughout the year's fundraisers, family events and other team gatherings. Teams are determined by number of members and can include participants registered as WAM 300 riders, WAM 50 riders, crew volunteers, WAM Jr. riders or virtual participants. Awards are also given to the top individual riders for the 300, 50 and Jr. as well as the top virtual fundraiser. All funds must be received by noon on Saturday, July 24, 2021 to be counted for award designations.

### When should I wear the 2021 tour jersey?

All WAM 300 riders will receive a WAM tour event jersey at rider check-in. We suggest you plan to wear this jersey Saturday of the tour. Here is what we suggest for each day:

Friday\*: wear a "retro" WAM tour jersey from a previous year

Saturday: wear your 2021 WAM jersey

Sunday: wear your own designed team or individual jersey

Make-A-Wish Michigan appreciates that all riders participate with the common goal of the united WAM team - to support our mission of creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. The above schedule is a suggestion based on feedback from riders in order to be visible by family and friends, as well as other teammates, at the finish-line celebration on Sunday.

\*Former WAM jerseys will be available to purchase at the WAM store during rider check-in on Thursday, July 22, (starting location only - not in Traverse City).

### What if I do not want to stay overnight at the schools?

If you do not want to stay overnight at the schools, you can stay at one of the approved hotels (at your own



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expense). Transportation to and from the approved hotels will be provided by Make-A-Wish Michigan. Our shuttle service will NOT be able to pick you up at any other hotels other than the official approved ones listed on our website under WAM 300 Information.

### Can I camp at an overnight school?

Yes, you can bring your own camper, RV or tent to stay at any of our overnight school locations. There are no hookups and maps will be provided on where campers can park overnight and where tents can be set up. NO campers or RV's will be allowed at our lunch locations.

### What is a Virtual Rider?

A virtual participant is anyone who wants to participate in WAM as a fundraiser, but is not able to ride or volunteer on the actual tour itself. Virtual riders are eligible for all fundraising incentives and encouraged to raise \$500.

### What if I have raised donations but I am unable to ride?

You will still qualify for all of the fundraising incentives. If at any time you realize that you are unable to ride, please contact Kedrin Gall at [kgall@michigan.wish.org](mailto:kgall@michigan.wish.org). You can still participate as a virtual participant or volunteer. All registration fees and donations are non-refundable and the registration fee is non-transferable.

### Why is the WAM 300 ride capped at 1000 registrants?

Our number one priority is making WAM safe for all riders and volunteers on the road. By capping the number of riders, we are able to properly plan and execute a safe and organized event.

### How old does someone have to be to volunteer for WAM?

Volunteers must be 21 or older. Volunteers are required to have a valid driver's license, complete a background check and must be available for all four days of the tour. Lifting requirements also apply.

### How old do I have to be to participate as a 300 or 50 rider?

Participants must be 13 or older to participate and must meet the following requirements:

- All riders must be able to ride independently for long distances.
- All riders are required to raise the minimum fundraising goal.
- All Participants between the ages of 13 and 18 are required to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times on the tour (i.e. if the minor needs to leave the route, the adult must leave with them and vice versa) and stay within 100 yards of them when on the route.
- All participants between the ages of 13 and 18 need a parent or legal guardian to sign the liability waiver at participant check-in.
- All minor participants are required to read and follow information in the What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know publication. This booklet is brought to you by the League of Michigan Bicyclists, which has been promoting bicycling and the safety of bicyclists on the roadways in Michigan since 1981. This booklet will be provided to all participants at participant check-in and is also available on our website.
- We highly suggest that accompanying adults are not responsible for more than one minor child participant on the Tour.
- No trailers, child carriers, tag-alongs, or any equipment and accessories attached to a bicycle for transporting children or pets are allowed on the route at any time.



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### **What accommodations will be made for participants with disabilities on the event?**

When you register, please let us know what special accessibility accommodations you require on the event. Our goal is to make WAM accessible to all.

### **What is a Wish Hero?**

Wish Heroes are children who have already received their wish and will serve as inspiration to riders and volunteers while on their WAM journey. All wish heroes are invited to attend the Heroes Hurrah finish line celebration to award the riders and volunteers with a completion medal.

### **When will I know who my Wish Hero is?**

All of our Wish Hero bios will be completed in the spring. At rider check-in you will receive your Wish Hero wristband to wear during the tour.

### **What is the Silent Mile?**

We ride and volunteer to honor the brave children and loved ones who have battled so courageously but who are no longer with us. We honor them with a very powerful and beautiful Silent Mile near the WAM finish line. The Silent Mile is a special area of the ride where you can see the names and photos of wish children or loved ones who believed in our important wish granting mission. These amazing souls have touched all of us and the tribute is a reminder that they will never be forgotten. At the Silent Mile stars will be placed alphabetically.

### **How do I submit a star for the Silent Mile?**

You can submit names and photos of wish children and loved ones you would like to honor in this year's Silent Mile at any time to Kedrin Gall at [kgall@michigan.wish.org](mailto:kgall@michigan.wish.org). All names and photos must be received no later than Friday, June 18, 2021.

### **What is Heroes Hurrah?**

Heroes Hurrah is the finish line celebration for WAM. This event is complete with live entertainment, fun family activities, a delicious meal and more. The crowning jewel is when the riders cross the finish line and are able to meet their wish hero who inspired them throughout the ride. These wish children proudly award the riders and volunteers with a WAM completion medal.

### **Can my family and friends attend Heroes Hurrah?**

Absolutely! We encourage you to invite your friends and family to cheer you on at the finish line!

### **Can I use my...?**

For safety purposes we cannot allow headphones, child seats, bike trailers, rollerblades or pets on the tour.

### **Can I leave my vehicle at a location prior or post the day(s) WAM will be on-site at that location?**

No, MAWMI has contracts with the locations to ONLY utilize those locations during the dates and times of WAM.

### **Can I bring/pick-up my car at the EATON Proving Grounds outside of the Thursday WAM 300 check-in time or Sunday WAM 50 check-in time or Heroes Hurrah Celebration?**

No, no one will be allowed access to the EATON Proving Grounds outside of the official WAM/Heroes Hurrah event times.



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### **How is my bike transported from the EATON Proving Grounds to Traverse City East Middle School?**

We provide semi-trucks to transport your bike from the check-in at the EATON Proving Grounds to Traverse City East Middle School. The bikes are tightly packed and seldom shift during the moving process. You are responsible for providing any padding or protection you would like to use to wrap your bike when on the semi-truck. We will not have any materials available for bike wrapping on Thursday morning. Please use disposable padding/wrapping materials, as we are unable to transport any of your bike padding/protective material with us on the tour.

### **Can I bring my RV, Motorhome, Trailer or Bus to the overnight locations?**

Yes, please refer to our RV Policy for the guidelines to follow on tour. Please note, RVs, Motorhomes, Trailers, Buses, and other oversized vehicles are NOT permitted at the lunch stops.

### **What is the personal SAG policy?**

WAM is a fully supported tour. This includes having SAG vehicles to assist as needed. Personal support vehicles are prohibited on WAM. If you have friends or family who want to see you on the WAM 300 tour, they need to follow the off-route directions we will provide on our website in June. Copies will also be available at the information booth on tour. Please note, off-route directions are not available for the WAM 50 because personal vehicles should not be traveling on those routes.

The off-route directions for the WAM 300 are from the overnight location to the overnight location and from the overnight location to the lunch location and lunch location to overnight location each day. This will help keep roads clear for riders, medics, and Make-A-Wish Michigan official SAG volunteers. Make-A-Wish Michigan has liability insurance that covers authorized vehicles only.

If you are bringing an RV, camper, bus, or trailer please refer to our RV, camper, bus, and trailer policy. Personal SAG vehicles are not allowed at break stops. If you have a medication that needs to be delivered to a certain location on the tour, please contact Make-A-Wish Michigan to make arrangements.

### **This policy will be enforced by the Police Departments on tour with us and Make-A-Wish Michigan personnel. If a personal SAG vehicle is found on the tour, we will:**

- First offense - Instruct the driver of the vehicle to follow the off-route directions found on our website and immediately move ahead to the lunch or overnight stop. We will document the make/model and license plate of the vehicle as well as the drivers name and team name and/or riders name that they are assisting.
- Second offense – The team and/or rider who is receiving support from the personal SAG will be contacted on tour and will need to connect with their personal SAG to ensure they adhere to the rules. If this does not happen, the team and/or riders may not be eligible to ride in WAM the following year. To provide for the safety of the riders, adherence to this policy is top priority. Riders and team captains will be held responsible for the conduct of their personal SAG driver(s) and passengers.

### **We will ask that all riders sign an agreement in compliance with the personal SAG vehicle policy at check-in.**

### **Will you put my name on various mailing lists?**

Make-A-Wish Michigan collects and maintains only personal information that is voluntarily submitted to us. We will not share personally identifiable information with a third party unless the individual submitting this information has permitted us to do so. Make-A-Wish Michigan will maintain a copy of your information and respects the privacy of their donors and participants by not selling or exchanging their names and honors all requests for anonymity.