

Shrikes and Bikes-A Shortgrass Spin FAQs

REGISTRATION, PARKING, AND LODGING

- **Can I register on the day of the ride?**

Race organizers have a strong preference to limit day-of registrations because there is a capacity limit for the event and we want to ensure that we have enough food and supplies for those that register. Registering early helps give organizers better estimates for how many riders will be attending. **We ask that all riders register by 5/30.**

- **What is included in my registration fee?**

Registration includes welcome reception on June 5th, Support and Gear (SAG) vehicle support, aid stations support (water, snacks, restrooms, education), SWAG items.

- **What is the refund policy?**

Registrations are non-refundable.

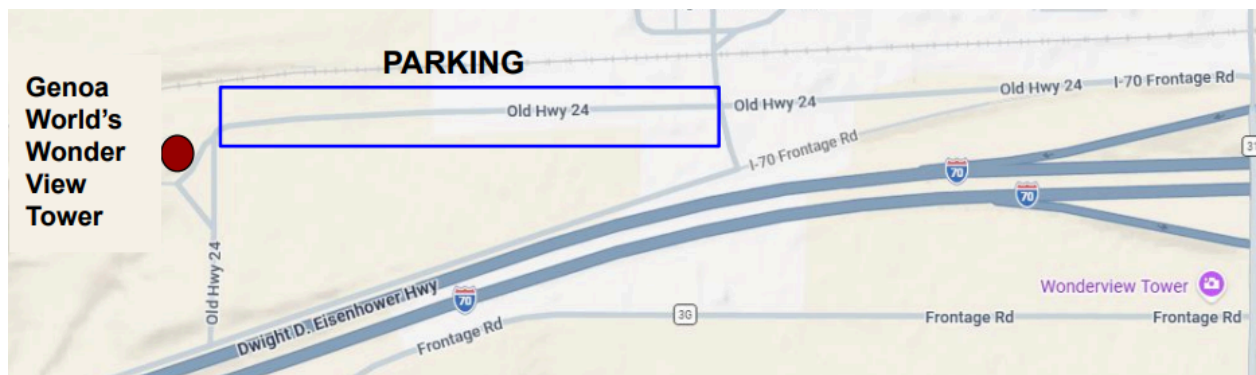
- **Genoa is way out east, where are the best places to stay?**

There are many places to stay in the general area around Genoa and these are listed on the event web page under [lodging](#).

- **Where can I park?**

Friday June 5th Welcome Event: Free parking available at the Hugo Roundhouse where the event is being held. Address: 3rd Ave, Hugo, CO 80821. Coordinates: 39.13381, -103.47415.

Saturday June 6th bike ride: Free parking available close to the Genoa World's Wonder View Tower (race start) along both shoulders of Old Hwy 24 (west of the intersection between Main Street and Old Hwy 24). The tower address is 30121 Old Hwy 24, Genoa, CO 80818. Coordinates: 39.275297, -103.509368. **Please do not park at the tower itself as parking is limited to event staff.**



**Note that Eastern Colorado Grasslands Coalition and event organizers are not responsible for valuables left in vehicles.*

BIKE RIDE

- **Is Shrikes and Bikes a race?**

No, the Shrikes and Bikes Shortgrass Spin is not a competitive race, it is a unique gravel ride experience where riders will follow a scenic route through agricultural lands, renewable energy sites, wildlife habitat, and historic landmarks, including the newly renovated World's Wonder View Tower. Participants will meet ranchers, conservationists, and local leaders along the way and hear stories about stewardship, rural economies, and the changing landscapes of the eastern plains. There will be no race tracker chips, podium ceremony, or awards.

- **What kind of bike is sufficient for the ride?**

The route consists of dirt/gravel county roads with variable degrees of grading and looseness. Due to the loose nature of some parts of the course, riders should use a gravel specific bike or a mountain bike (not required). Road bikes are generally not considered suitable for the course. Route organizers suggest a minimum tire width of 40 - 45 mm (2.0 - 2.1 in) with a 'knobby' tread or a mildly aggressive tread pattern for looser terrain.

- **Will the route/course be marked?**

Yes the course will be marked, but we recommend using a cycle computer or app on your phone for additional navigation as course markings may be moved by accident, blow away, etc.

- **Is there a GPX file of the route that I can download onto my phone, smart watch, bike computer etc?**

Yes, you can download GPX files of the [22](#) and [40.5](#) mile routes on [ridewithgps.com](#). The [route description](#) also contains links and QR codes to the routes. **Note** that you will need to create a free [ridewithgps.com](#) account to access the export route tool. Once you have signed up for the free account, use the link or QR code to access the route of interest and click on the route so that the overview appears. Then click on the symbol with the three dots and click "export as file". Choose your desired file format (most watches, bike computers, etc use GPX track files) and click download. Then upload to your device.

- **Will there be aid stations and bathrooms along the route?**

Yes, there will be 4 aid stations along the 40.5 mile route and 3 along the 22 mile route. Please see the route descriptions for aid station locations. Aid stations will have a port-a-potty and various snacks such as fruit, PB+J sandwiches, energy sport chews, pretzels, candy, water, and electrolyte mixes.

- **How should I handle trash, including food waste?**

There will be trash cans at the ride start/finish and at all the aid stations along the route. Please keep your trash with you when you are riding between aid stations and do not throw trash on the ground. Please be respectful of the grasslands and private property.

- **What weather can I expect and how should I dress for the ride?**

June in eastern Colorado is typically hot and slightly windy. Current weather predictions for June 6th, 2026 indicate a daily high of 74-90°F and an overnight low of 40-56°F. Given the potential hot conditions, riders should wear breathable biking clothes (bike shorts, sunshirt, breathable socks), and potentially pack a light layer for the morning portion of the ride.

- **Is there SAG support?**

Yes, there will be Support and Gear (SAG) vehicles on the course to ensure that no one is left behind and that there is support for gear and medical emergencies. Lincoln County EMTs will be present for medical emergencies.

- **Are e-bikes, adaptive bikes, etc allowed?**

E-bikes and adaptive bikes are allowed on the ride, but please use common sense around other riders. Note that you should be comfortable riding gravel roads on these bikes.

- **What is the event day timeline?**

**Subject to change*

Friday June 5th 4:30-7:30pm ([Union Pacific Roundhouse](#), 3rd Ave, Hugo, CO 80821)

- Pick up your registration packet
- Enjoy chuckwagon-style dinner (6pm)
- Tour ongoing restoration of the iconic landmark Hugo Roundhouse
- Contribute to a community art project
- Join a guided grassland bird walk at 7pm

Saturday June 6th ([Worlds Wonderview Tower](#), 30121 Old Hwy 24, Genoa, CO 80818)

- **7:00-7:45am** registration and packet pickup
- **7:45-8:00am** rider orientation and safety briefing
- **8:00am** Prairie Day Proclamation and bike ride starts (22 mile and 40.5 mile rides start)
- **10:00am** Finish Line Festivities start
- **11:00am** Lunch starts
- **3:00pm** Finish Line Festivities end

- **Where is the start/finish?**

Both the 22 mile and the 40.5 mile rides start and finish at the Genoa World's Wonder View Tower.

- **What food and drink items are available at the Friday night reception and Saturday finish line?**

Friday reception: Heavy chuckwagon style appetizers and beer garden. Vegetarian/vegan, and Gluten Free options available for those that include this on their registration.

Saturday post ride lunch: Local beef plate lunch. Vegetarian/vegan, and Gluten Free options available for those that include this on their registration.

- **Is there a cutoff time for the course?**

Yes, riders will have 6 hrs to complete their ride which should give folks enough time to ride, check out the aid stations, and enjoy the scenery. At 2pm, SAG wagons will assist any remaining riders and give them a ride to the finish line.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES

- **Are helmets required?**

Yes, helmets are 100% required.

- **Are headphones allowed?**

We kindly ask that you don't use headphones so other riders and ride support staff can communicate with you if needed. Bikes are fun on their own!

- **How will race support staff communicate during emergencies?**

Event organizers will coordinate with local emergency services to ensure preparedness in the event of an emergency. In the event of a medical incident, riders will be assisted by event staff and emergency responders will be contacted immediately. For more information, see the event safety and risk management plan linked [here](#).

- **Do you have an event safety and risk management plan?**

Yes, our plan is linked on the event page website or can be accessed [here](#). In the event of a medical incident, riders will be assisted by event staff and emergency responders will be contacted immediately. Event organizers will coordinate with local emergency services to ensure preparedness in the event of an emergency. Safety coordination includes:

- Notification and coordination with local EMS providers
- Sharing the event route and timeline with emergency services in advance
- Identifying access points for emergency vehicles along the route
- Ensuring organizers and volunteers have emergency contact protocols

Clear signage will be placed along the course to help riders safely navigate the route and alert motorists to the presence of cyclists. Signage will include:

- Directional route markers guiding riders along the route
- Advance warning signs for motorists indicating "Cyclists on Road" or "Event Ahead"

- Intersection safety signage at key crossings or turns
- Reduced speed reminders in areas with rider concentration
- Aid station signage to clearly identify rest and support stops

- **What should I do if I can't finish the ride?**

If you cannot finish the ride and you are at an aid station, please inform aid station staff so they can call the Support and Gear (SAG) vehicle. SAG vehicles will circulate along the route throughout the ride to provide necessary assistance. Vehicles will follow designated routes to ensure timely access to participants and one SAG vehicle will bring up the rear and will stay behind the last rider. SAG support will include:

- Transport for riders unable to complete the route
- Basic mechanical assistance when possible
- Communication with event organizers and emergency responders if needed
- Water and rider support if aid stations are temporarily out of reach

- **What should I do if I crash, overheat, or have a mechanical issue on the ride?**

Support and Gear (SAG) vehicles and aid stations will be out on course with basic medical supplies and basic bike mechanical assistance. Please ensure you bring extra bike tubes or tube patches in the event you get a flat, we will have limited tubes available. Aid Stations and SAG vehicles will have bike pumps. If you crash or overheat and cannot finish the ride, SAG vehicles will take you to the finish line. If you have a major crash or medical emergency, call 911 if the SAG vehicle is not within view. Lincoln County EMTs are aware of the event and on call for emergency assistance.

- **How is the traffic on the ride course?**

The ride takes place on county roads that are open to the public and vehicle traffic. The route has been designed to utilize as many low traffic roads as possible. There will be signs posted along the route to alert drivers to the event and landowners adjacent to the route have been notified of the event. Please exercise caution and awareness as you are riding along the route and follow all traffic laws (keep to the right, observe stop signs, etc.).

- **How do I avoid overheating?**

Wear light colored breathable clothing (ie sunshirts, bike jerseys, bike shorts) to stay cool while riding. It is very important to stay ahead of dehydration, it is generally recommended to hydrate with 16-20oz of water and electrolytes 1-2 hours before the ride and then maintain hydration at the rate of 16-20oz every hour during the ride. These are general guidelines, some people may need more fluids more frequently. Fatigue, dizziness, and muscle cramps are signs of overheating and dehydration. Do not ignore these signs, take a break at an aid station, hydrate, and contact race support staff if you are overheating.

- **How much should I eat and drink between aid stations?**

This guidance definitely varies between individual riders, but we recommend carrying at least two 20-24 oz water bottles and quick energy snacks that can last you one hour between aid stations. The time between aid stations depends on your pace, see the route map for distances between aid stations.

- **Will there be a rider and safety orientation?**

Yes, all riders will receive safety guidance prior to the start of the ride. Orientation will include:

- Route overview and navigation instructions
- Reminder that roads remain open to public traffic
- Safe riding practices on gravel roads
- Hydration and weather preparedness guidance
- Emergency contact procedures
- Expectations for respectful behavior toward landowners and rural communities

LIVESTOCK, WILDLIFE, AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

- **Will there be cattle or other livestock on the route?**

Yes, there may be cattle or other livestock on the road. This route travels through active ranching country, and riders may encounter cattle on or near the road.

- **What should I do if I encounter cattle on the road?**

Slow down and give animals plenty of space. If the road is blocked, stop and wait for them to move, or pass slowly and quietly when it's safe. Avoid sudden movements, loud noises, or riding directly through the middle of a herd. If cattle seem agitated, give them extra time and space.

- **What kinds of wildlife might I see along the route?**

You may see a variety of shortgrass prairie wildlife including pronghorn, deer, coyotes, raptors, and grassland birds.

- **What should I do if I encounter wildlife on or near the road?**

Slow down and give wildlife space. Allow animals to move away on their own and avoid chasing or approaching them. Sometimes snakes like to hang out on gravel roads, give them space and move around them.

- **Is it okay to stop and take photos of wildlife?**

Yes, as long as you remain on the road and keep a respectful distance. Do not approach wildlife, enter fields, or disturb animals for a closer view.

- **Are these roads public or do they cross private land?**
The route follows public county roads, but nearly all surrounding land is privately owned. Please respect adjacent private property and do not leave the road for any reason.
- **Do I need permission to ride on these roads?**
Even though the route follows public county roads, private land is directly adjacent to the route. Event organizers reached out to surrounding private landowners to let them know about the ride since it is an organized event. You do not need permission to ride these roads in the future, however if you return, please respect private property by staying on the road and keeping all your trash.
- **Can I leave the road for breaks, photos, or mechanical issues?**
No, if you need to take a break or snap a photo, step to the edge of the road but do not cross onto adjacent pastures or fields as these are privately owned. If you have a mechanical issue between aid stations, the SAG vehicle can assist you.
- **Are there designated places to stop and rest?**
Yes, there are aid stations along the route. Click [here](#) for the 40.5 mile route and aid stations and [here](#) for the 22 mile route. QR codes for the routes and aid stations are also available in the [route description](#).
- **What should I do if I'm approached by a landowner?**
Event organizers contacted private landowners adjacent to the route to make them aware of the event. If you are approached by a landowner, be friendly and answer any questions they have. Landowners should have the contact info for event organizers.
- **How can I be a good ambassador for cyclists in rural communities?**
Ride respectfully, follow all rules, pack out all trash (or place in aid station trash cans), and be courteous to landowners, drivers, and other riders. Your behavior helps maintain positive relationships and future access for events like this.