



DEATH RIDER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

The Death Ride covers **103 miles** with **14,000'** of elevation gain.

The best part: **95% closed roads!**

Roads closed to cars until noon on climbs 1 & 2, and 4 pm on climbs 3-6.

ROUTE OPTIONS

This is a ride, not a race.

Here are some options for a shorter ride.

1st climb only: 30 mi | 3,800'

1st & 2nd climbs: 50 mi | 7,200'

1st, 2nd & 3rd climbs: 76 mi | 10,300'

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 6th climbs: 85 mi | 12,000'

1st & 3rd climbs: 55 mi | 6,900'

1st, 3rd & 6th climbs: 65 mi | 8,500'

1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th: 83 mi | 10,800'

3rd climb only: 41 mi | 4,200'

3rd & 6th climbs: 50 mi | 6,000'

3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th: 68 mi | 7,700'

All 6 climbs: 103 mi | 14,300'

Note: If you modify the route, please consider official rest stop hours and cut-off times to ensure support and avoid open roads.

No matter how many passes you complete, it's a great challenge.

FAQ

Where Do I Go?

The ride starts and finishes at **Turtle Rock Park in Markleeville**. Look for event signage when you arrive.

Where Can I Park?

Rider parking will be along the highway ONLY.

There will be **NO PARKING** on July 10th & 11th inside Turtle Rock Park **except** for **booked Van Campers**. If you would like to book Van Camping, contact us: info@deathride.com

What Is Packet Pickup?

BRING YOUR ID FOR CHECK-IN - (If you are checking someone else in, bring their ID)

Packet pickup/rider registration will be held at Turtle Rock Park on:

Friday, July 10th 2026

11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Saturday, July 11th, 2026 (Ride Day)

4 am - 4:59 am

All riders must check in and pick up their bib before 4:59 am on ride day - **No exceptions.**

What Will I Receive At Packet Pick Up?

At packet pickup, each rider will receive:

- **Official Rider Bib + Helmet Sticker + RFID Tag**
- **2026 Rider T-Shirt**
- **2026 Water Bottle**
- **2026 Logo Patch**
- **Swag Table freebies courtesy of our amazing sponsors!**

New for 2026: RFID Rider Tracking

This year, all riders will receive an RFID tag that helps us better understand rider movement throughout the course. The tag emits a tiny radio signal that is detected at tracking locations along the route, allowing us to improve rider safety and course operations.

The RFID tag must be attached to your seat post to function properly.

RFID SEAT POST TAG



Please note:

- The tag must hang from your seat post as instructed.
- The tag will not work if placed in a jersey pocket, saddle bag, backpack, or any other location on the bike.
- The tag must not be bent, folded, or damaged.
- Riders are responsible for ensuring the tag remains attached throughout the event.

DO NOT



How To Apply Your Bib & Sticker

Bibs Must Be Placed On Your Back

Pin the bib to the **back** of your jersey. It must be clearly visible from behind. Use all four safety pins provided to keep it flat and secure.

You must wear your bib for the duration of the ride.

Helmet Sticker Must Be Placed On The Front Of Your Helmet

Peel and apply the helmet sticker to the **front of your helmet** where it is clearly visible to course officials and safety personnel.

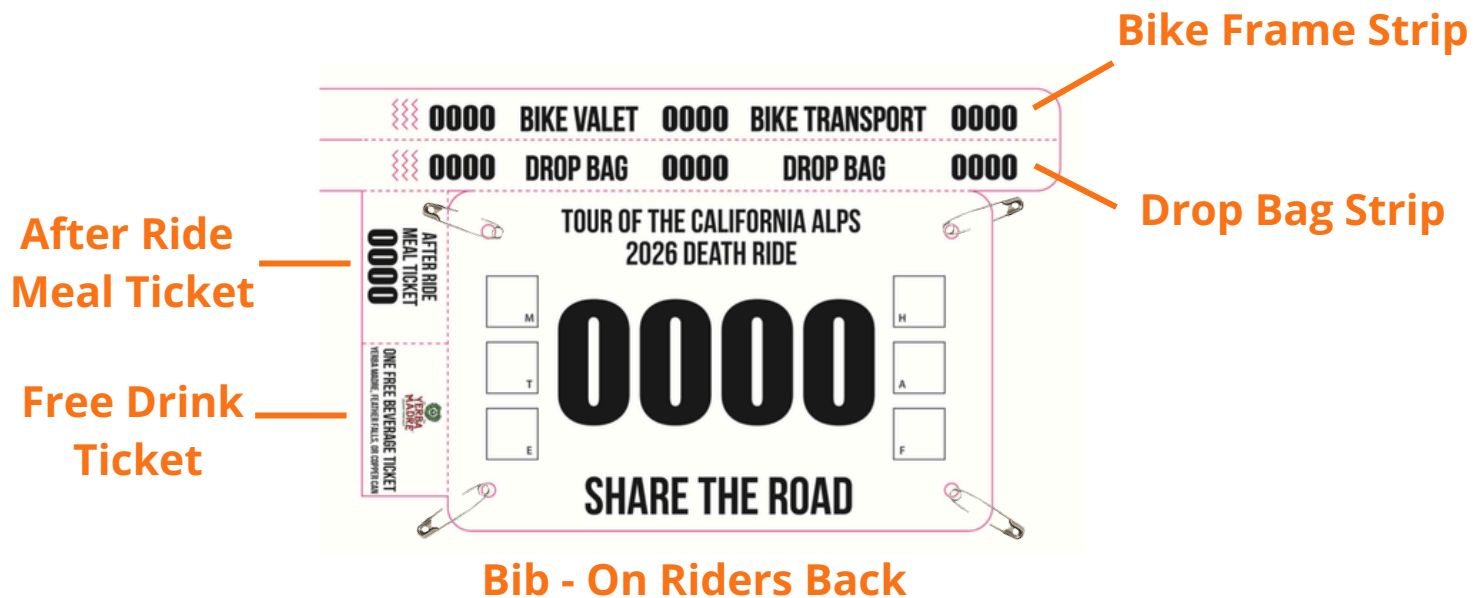
Bike Frame Strip

Wrap the adhesive strip around your **bike's top tube**. Ensure it is fully adhered to with no loose edges that could peel during the ride.

Bag Drop Strip

If you use a **Drop Bag** at the **Monitor Pass** or **Topaz Lake** rest stops, add this strip to your bag so you can **pick it up at Turtle Rock Park** at the end of the ride. Bags should arrive back around **3 pm**.

You must pick up your bag. We will not ship anything left behind.



Front of Helmet Sticker



What Time Should I Start?

The course officially opens when the roads are closed to vehicle traffic at 5:00 AM.

Recommended start times:

- **Full 103-Mile Course: 5:00–6:00 AM**
- **Shorter Routes: 6:00–7:00 AM**
- **Ebbetts Pass Only (3-Pass Option): As late as 8:00 AM**

Don't forget your front and rear lights!

If you choose to start before 5:00 AM, please note: roads remain open to traffic, aid stations are not operating, and riders will not receive official course support before that time.

How Long Will the Roads Be Closed?

Road closure schedule:

- Highways 89 and 4: Closed beginning at 5:00 AM
- Monitor Pass (Highway 89): Reopens at 12:00 PM
- Ebbetts Pass (Highway 4): Reopens at 4:00 PM

Aid station cut-off times are posted on the official route map on the last page

Road Conditions

Questions or concerns regarding roadway conditions should be directed to Caltrans.

Caltrans Customer Service Request Portal

csr.dot.ca.gov

District 10 Public Affairs

- Email: **district10publicaffairs@dot.ca.gov**
- Phone: (209) 948-7543

What If I Need Assistance On Course?

We have SAG Support throughout the course. If you need assistance, **mechanical, medical, or otherwise**, do not hesitate to **WAVE DOWN a SAG Moto or Van**.

There are bike techs along the course - see the course map for timings and locations.

At the expo on Friday (registration day), **Shoreline Tahoe** will have a **bike tech** booth from 11 am - 8 pm

WEATHER & SUPPORT

The weather can be brutal and changes rapidly. You may experience both sweltering heat and freezing rain, sometimes even snow. **Layering is essential!**

Don't shed all your layers too fast - the various microclimates can change quickly throughout the course.

www.weather.gov (NOAA)

www.windfinder.com

Look up weather for **Markleeville** or **Alpine County, CA** - (NOT Lake Tahoe)

What Do I Need To Bring On Course?

Please make sure all **electronic shifters, brakes, lights, etc., are fully charged** before starting the ride. **Carry a spare battery if possible.**

We recommend carrying a minimum of **two tubes, patch kits, tire pump/C02 cartridges**, and be aware of your wheel-- tubeless, regular, etc.

Will I Have Cell Service?

Cell service is very limited throughout much of the course. Do not rely on having coverage.

- **Verizon** service is generally available in Markleeville, Turtle Rock Park, and much of Alpine County
- Limited service may be available at **Topaz Lake** and **Lake Alpine**.

For rider safety, the course is supported by:

- EMS personnel
- HAM radio operators
- SAG vehicles
- Fully staffed aid stations

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, WAVE DOWN A SAG VEHICLE

Will There Be Wi-Fi At Turtle Rock Park?

Yes and no.

Public Wi-fi is available, **BUT** it will be **temporarily disabled** during **peak** registration times to avoid crashing the network. It will be on and open for use outside of these peak times.

If you have an emergency, speak to a volunteer or member of staff.

What Can Friends and Family Do While I'm Riding?

Volunteer! For 45 years, volunteers have been making the Death Ride possible, and we always need an extra hand.

Email us: volunteer@deathride.com

Or ask any staff member wearing an orange shirt at the ride.

Explore Markleeville

Visitors can:

- Visit local restaurants and the **spectator spot** at the Markleeville General Store, **12 pm - 3 pm**
- Stop by the Visitors Center for local information
- Soak in the Hot Springs at Grover Hot Springs State Park

The road between Turtle Rock Park and Markleeville remains open throughout the event, making it easy for visitors to explore the town.

How Do I Get My Photos?

You will receive a link to **FinishersPix** via email **after the ride** to access photos taken by our professional photographers on the course.

What About Meals?

Registration Day: Riders can purchase a meal at our Spaghetti Feed from 4 pm to 6 pm. Vegetarian option available.

Ride Day: Every registered rider will receive a **complimentary** post-ride meal from 12 pm - 6:30 pm

- Vegetarian options
- Vegan options
- Gluten-free options

All meals will be inside at Turtle Rock Park

What About Hydration On Course?

This year, we're thrilled to stock the course with **Skratch Labs** gummies and powders. There are water stops and rest stops throughout the course. See the course map on the final page for full details and locations.

What's A Drop Bag?

Our Drop bag service is available at the **Monitor Pass** and **Topaz Lake** rest stops. The service is for riders to shed extra layers & bike lights. Please don't shed all of your layers too soon, as the various microclimates can bring rain or even snow at different elevations.

If you use a Drop Bag, add your **Drop Bag Strip** to your bag so you can pick it up at **Turtle Rock Park** at the end of the ride. **Bags should arrive back around 3 pm**, but please be patient as delays can happen.

Please note: we do not transport any rider gear to the course before the ride AND we do not ship any forgotten bags.

Are E-Bikes Allowed?

Yes! Since Death Ride is a fully supported cycling tour—not a race—e-bikes are welcome with the following conditions:

- Only Class 1 and Class 3 pedal-assist e-bikes are permitted.
- Class 2 throttle-equipped e-bikes are not allowed.
- Technical support is available for mechanical issues only; battery-related assistance is not provided.
- Most e-bike batteries are not capable of completing the full course on a single charge.
- Please yield to human-powered cyclists on climbs, descents, and sharp corners.
- E-bike riders are not eligible for All-Pass Finisher status.

Where Can I Buy Merch?

Visit the **Death Ride Shop** at the Expo for a great selection of current-year merchandise and fan-favorite items from previous years.

Expo Hours:

July 10th : 11 am - 8 pm

July 11th : 11 am - 6 pm

New for 2026: The Official Voler Participant Jersey will be available for purchase at Expo.

We accept cash / card / and contactless payments

What Is A 'Finisher'?

A **Finisher** is a rider who:

- Completes the entire course between **5:00 AM and 6:00 PM**
- Collects **all six** official course stamps (the 6th is at Turtle Rock Park)
- Checks in at Turtle Rock Park - **bib number verified by staff**

Finishers can:

- Sign the Official Finisher Poster
- Receive their Official Finisher Pin and Sticker

Finishers will receive an email with a link to purchase exclusive Voler Finisher apparel after the event.

Where Do I Get My Bib Stamps?

There are a total of **6 BIB Stamps**. Collect them at the following locations:

- **Monitor Pass**
- **Topaz Lake**
- **Ebbetts Pass**
- **Hermit Valley**
- **Lake Alpine**
- **FINISH @ Turtle Rock Park**

To be a verified 'Finisher,' you must collect **all 6 stamps** AND be **checked in** by a member of staff at Turtle Rock Park



What Is The New Van Camping?

2 Night Van Camping at Death Ride  

This is the easiest way yet to experience the event weekend. Open to Vans AND other vehicles within the size limits (MAX 25 feet, single footprint). Wake up steps from packet pickup, the expo, and the 5:00 AM start line, without the stress of an early morning drive or logistics. Just park, settle in, and be right in the heart of Death Ride weekend.

\$78 - 2 Night Van Camp: July 10th & 11th

With van camping, you'll be close to:

- Friday packet pickup, rider meeting, and expo
- Food, live music, and the festival atmosphere at Turtle Rock Park
- Early morning roll-out (no commuting in the dark before 5 AM start)
- Fellow riders are setting up for the same unforgettable day
- 5-minute drive from Markleeville (Restaurants / General Store / Hot Springs)

Van campers will have access to:

- Free Wifi (Please note the public wifi will be temporarily disabled during peak registration times to avoid crashing the system)
- Water
- Port-A-Potties

MAX SIZE: 25 feet - single footprint.

Any vehicle OKAY (within size limits)

Email info@deathride.com for the booking link.

General Schedule

Friday

Festival

Vendor Expo at Turtle Rock Park

- 11:00 AM:** Poster signing for the first 100 people
- 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM:** Vendor expo, live music, food & beer
- 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM:** Packet Pickup
- 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM:** Spaghetti Feed

NEW: Rider Meeting at Turtle Rock Park

- 5:30 PM:** Rider Meeting

Saturday

Tour of the California Alps Death Ride!

Opening Ceremony

- 5:00 AM:** Death Ride Founder kicks us off
- LIGHTS ON!** - Don't forget your mandatory headlights

Ride Schedule ([Click for more detail & time cuts](#))

- 5:00 AM:** Official Start Time. HWY 89 & 4 close to public traffic.
- 10:00 AM:** Lunch Rest Stop Opens
- 12:00 PM:** HWY 89 Opens to public traffic
- 4:00 PM:** HWY 4 Opens to public traffic
- 6:00 PM:** Course is CLOSED

Festival

- 11:00 AM:** First Finisher may arrive
- 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM:** Vendor expo, live music, food & beer
- 12:00 PM - 6:30 PM:** Complementary rider meals served
- 2:00 PM - Closing Remarks**

Subject to change

Subject to change

EXPO

At Turtle Rock Park

July 10th 11 AM - 8 PM

July 11th 11 AM - 6 PM

Food & Drink



Coffee Tree



Frujava



Bettys Balls



Yerba Madre



Feather Falls
Brewing Co.

Apparel & Gear



Death Ride Shop



Enjoy Cycling



Gradient Projects



Oakley



Performance
Endurance Gear

Services & Organizations



Lily Summit
Body Work



Shoreline Tahoe
Bike Tech



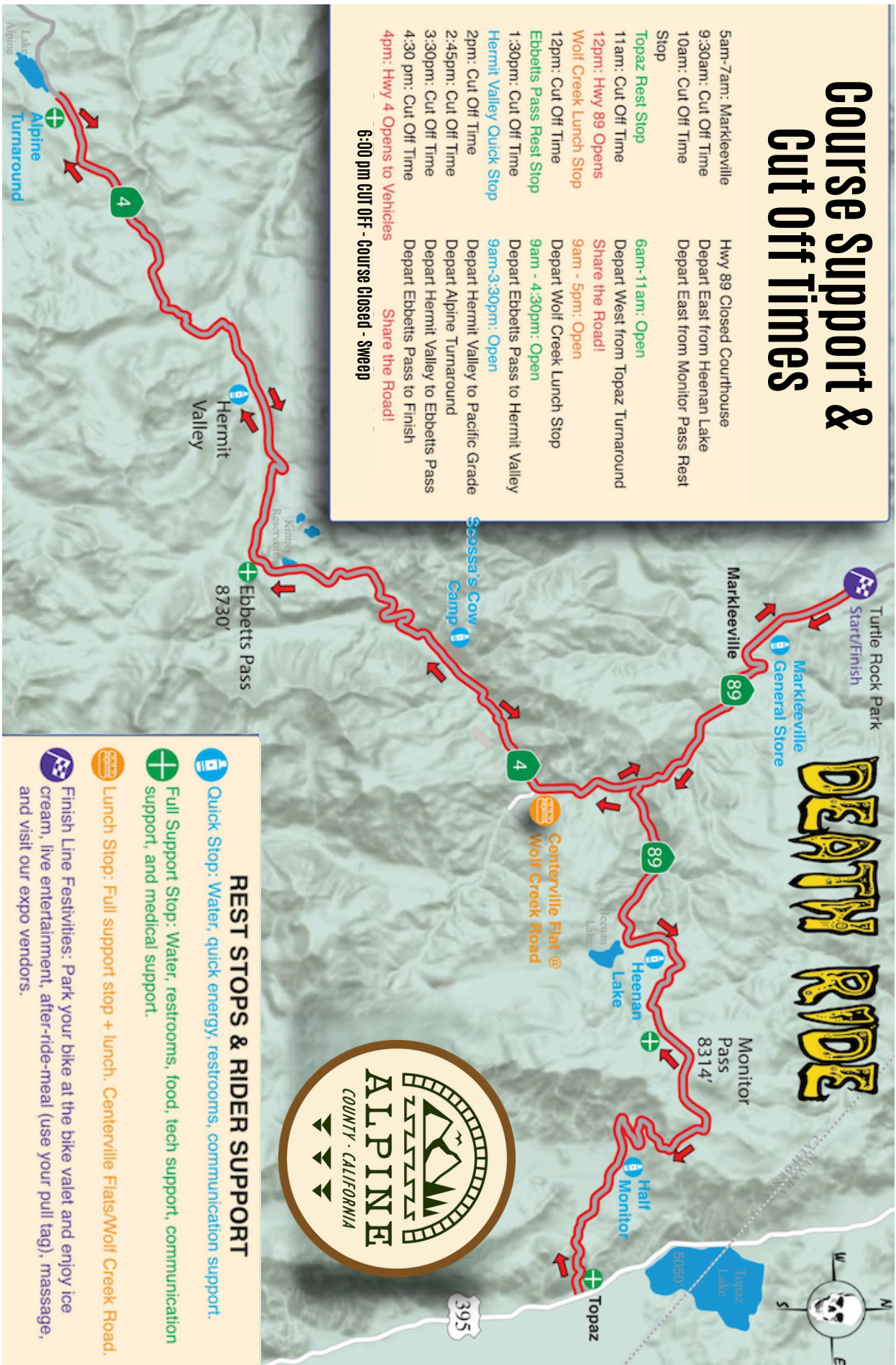
Kirkwood Ski Resort



Marin Cyclists

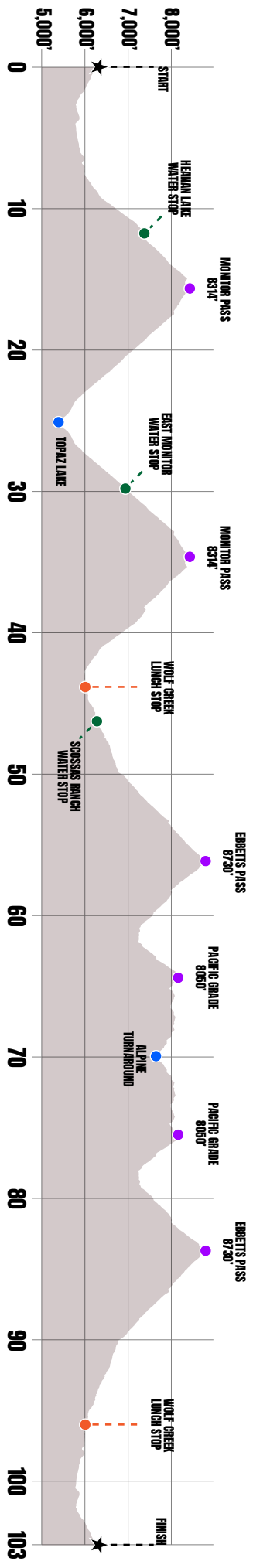
Course Support & Cut off Times

5am-7am: Markleeville	Hwy 89 Closed Courthouse
9:30am: Cut Off Time	Depart East from Heenan Lake
10am: Cut Off Time	Depart East from Monitor Pass Rest Stop
Stop	
Topaz Rest Stop	6am-11am: Open
11am: Cut Off Time	Depart West from Topaz Turnaround
12pm: Hwy 89 Opens	Share the Road!
Wolf Creek Lunch Stop	9am - 5pm: Open
12pm: Cut Off Time	Depart Wolf Creek Lunch Stop
Ebbetts Pass Rest Stop	9am - 4:30pm: Open
1:30pm: Cut Off Time	Depart Ebbetts Pass to Hermit Valley
Hermit Valley Quick Stop	9am-3:30pm: Open
2pm: Cut Off Time	Depart Hermit Valley to Pacific Grade
2:45pm: Cut Off Time	Depart Alpine Turnaround
3:30pm: Cut Off Time	Depart Hermit Valley to Ebbetts Pass
4:30 pm: Cut Off Time	Depart Ebbetts Pass to Finish
4pm: Hwy 4 Opens to Vehicles	Share the Road!
	6:00 pm CUT OFF - Course Closed - Sweep



REST STOPS & RIDER SUPPORT

- Quick Stop:** Water, quick energy, restrooms, communication support.
- Full Support Stop:** Water, restrooms, food, tech support, communication support, and medical support.
- Lunch Stop:** Full support stop + lunch. Centerville Flats/Wolf Creek Road.
- Finish Line Festivities:** Park your bike at the bike valet and enjoy ice cream, live entertainment, after-ride-meal (use your pull tag), massage, and visit our expo vendors.



Mile	Direction	Location	Stop Type
0	RT	HWY 89 South Towards Markleeville	
2.4		Markleeville (HWY 89 Closed at Courthouse: 5am - 7pm)	
6.3		Whore House Flats (HWY 89 Closed: 5am - 7am)	Bib Check
7.2	LT	HWY 89/4 East to Climb Monitor Pass: (HWY 89 East Closed: 5am - 12pm)	Com Station
		Cut Off Time: HWY 89 East to Monitor: 9:30am	Com Station
11.8	RT	Heenan Lake: Quick Stop: Open: 5am -12pm	Water / Quick Energy / Tech / Com
		Cut Off Time: Leave Heenan Lake East to Monitor : 9:30am	
14.8	RT	Monitor Pass Rest Stop: Open: 5am - 12pm	Rest Stop / Full Support / Bib Stamp #1
		Cut Off Time: Leave Monitor Pass Rest Stop East to Topaz: 10 am	Com Station
		One Pass Riders Turn Around and Return to Finish or Lunch	
15.3		Monitor Pass Summit Marker	
17.1		Alpine / Mono County Line	
24.6	LT/TA	Topaz Rest Stop OPEN: 6am - 11am	SAG / Rest Stop / Full Support / Bib Stamp #2
		Cut Off Time: HWY Leave Topaz Rest Stop West to Monitor Pass: 11am	Com Station
28.7	RT	Half Monitor: Quick Stop:	Quick Stop / Water / Com Station
34.4	LT	Monitor Pass Rest Stop: Open: 5am-12pm	Rest Stop / Full Support / Com Station
		2 Pass Riders Return to Finish or Lunch (HWY 89 Opens: 12pm - Share the Road)	
41.9	LT	HWY 4 West Towards Ebbetts Pass (HWY 89 Closed 5am - 4pm)	Com Station
44.3	LT	Wolf Creek Lunch Stop Open: 9am - 5pm	Lunch Stop / Full Support / SAG
		Cut Off Time: Leave Wolf Creek Lunch Stop West to Ebbetts: 12pm	Com Station
46.5	RT	Scossa's Cow Camp: Quick Stop: Water / Quick Energy / Tech Support / communication station	Water / Quick Energy / Tech / Com
48.8		Cattle Guard - Down Shift to Climb Ebbetts	
51		Half Ebbetts	Com Station
50.8		CADILLAC CURVE - CAUTION - BEWARE OF DOWNHILL TRAFFIC	
55.0	LT	Ebbetts Pass Rest Stop: Open: 9am - 4:30pm	Rest Stop / Full Support / Bib Stamp #3
		Cut Off Time: Leave Ebbetts Pass Rest Stop West to Hermit Valley: 1:30pm	Com Station
		3 Pass Riders Return to Lunch and Finish	
60.1	LT	Hermit Valley Open: 9am-3:30pm	Enhanced Water Stop / Bib Stamp #4
		Cut Off Time: Leave Hermit Valley West to Pacific Grade - Alpine Turnaround: 2pm / communication station	Com Station
		4 Pass Riders Return to Ebbetts, Lunch and Finish	
62.8		Pacific Grade Summit	Com station
68.3	LT/TA	Alpine Rest Stop - Open 10am-3pm	Rest Stop / Full Support / SAG / Water / Energy Bib Stamp #5
		Cut Off Time: Leave Alpine Turnaround East to Hermit Valley: 2:45pm	
76.5	RT	Hermit Valley: Closes: 3:30pm	Enhanced Water Stop / Full Support / SAG
		Cut Off Time: Leave Hermit Valley East to Ebbetts Pass: 3:30pm	Com Station
82.7	RT	Ebbetts Pass Rest Stop: Closes: 4:30pm	Rest Stop / Quick Stop / SAG / Com
		Cut Off Time: Leave Ebbetts Pass Rest Stop East to Finish: 4:30pm (HWY 4 Opens: 4:00 PM - Share the Road)	
86.4 - 86.9		"S" CURVES - CAUTION - SLOW DOWN! - CADILLAC CURVE - CAUTION - SLOW DOWN!	
93.4	RT	Wolf Creek Lunch Stop: Closes: 5:00 PM	Lunch Stop / Full Support / SAG / Com
95.4		HWY 89/4 Junction (HWY 89 Opens: 12pm / HWY 4 Opens: 4pm - Share the Road)	
100.6		Markleeville General Store: Open 12pm - 6pm	Water
103.0	LT	Turtle Rock Park - Finish - Course Closed / Sweep: 6:00pm	FINISH / Bib Stamp #6