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RIDE THE ROCKIES ROLLS OUT 2016 ROUTE FOR 31st ANNUAL TOUR

DENVER, CO – The Denver Post Ride The Rockies Bicycle Tour presented by ViaWest is excited to announce the route for its annual summer event. The 2016 ride will take place over six days from Sunday, June 12 to Friday, June 17.

The 31st edition of Ride The Rockies will showcase the communities of Carbondale, Aspen, Copper Mountain, first-time host Grand Lake, Estes Park and Fort Collins. Beginning in the heart of the Roaring Fork Valley and concluding on the scenic Front Range, cyclists will cover 403 miles and ascend nearly 30,000 vertical feet. Keeping to tradition, the course will feature some of Colorado's most scenic and breathtaking views and travel some of the state's most iconic roadways. Highlights will include Independence Pass, Fremont Pass, Tennessee Pass, Vail Pass, Ute Pass and high alpine Trail Ridge Road through Rocky Mountain National Park.

"In 2015 our cyclists hailed from all 50 states and 11 countries," said Chandler Smith, Tour Director. "We're truly an international event with deep roots in Colorado's communities."

"Ride The Rockies is an unforgettable experience for the participants, volunteers and host towns across the state," said Jason Carolan, Chief Technology Officer of ViaWest. "We are proud to be a part of a tradition that gives athletes the opportunity to experience the beauty of our state and the hospitality of our people, all while giving back to the community."

Local hotels, restaurants and retailers in each host community benefit from an estimated \$250,000 in economic impact every day of the tour. Increasing this impact, The Denver Post Community Foundation, in partnership with Wells Fargo, will award a \$5,000 grant to a nonprofit organization in each host town.

For over three decades, Ride The Rockies has showcased some of the state's most beautiful regions, a stewardship made possible by countless volunteers, loyal sponsors, dedicated partners and gracious host communities.

The 2016 Ride The Rockies route:

DATE	TOWN	MILEAGE	HIGHLIGHTS
Prologue Ride Saturday, June 11	Aspen	47 miles 3,632' elev. gain	Snowmass, Woody Creek, Watson Divide
Registration and Packet Pick-Up Saturday, June 11	Carbondale		
Sunday, June 12	Carbondale to Aspen	50 miles 4,253' elev. gain	Missouri Heights, Rio Grande Trail
Monday, June 13	Aspen to Copper Mountain	85 miles 7,655' elev. gain	Independence Pass, Fremont Pass
Tuesday, June 14	Copper Mountain Loop	79 miles 6,537' elev. gain	Fremont Pass, Tennessee Pass, Red Cliff Bridge, Battle Mountain, Vail Pass
Wednesday, June 15	Copper Mountain to Grand Lake	85 miles 3,939' elev. gain	Summit County & Dillon Dam Rec Path, Ute Pass
Thursday, June 16	Grand Lake to Estes Park	49 miles 4,636' elev. gain	Trail Ridge Road & Milner Pass (Rocky Mountain National Park)
Friday, June 17	Estes Park to Fort Collins	55 miles 2,762' elev. gain	Devils Gulch, Horsetooth Reservoir, Finish Line festivities at Odell Brewing Company
	TOTAL:	403 miles 29,782' elev. gain	

Route is subject to change pending permits.

Registration

Cyclists must register for the event online at ridetherockies.com. Applications will be accepted February 7– February 28. Applicants will be notified of their standing on March 4.

Training Resources

Ride The Rockies is a non-competitive event but training is strongly encouraged. Training information is available online and training packages are available through Carmichael Training Systems.

Prologue

The 2016 Ride The Rockies Prologue Experience will take place Friday, June 10 – Sunday, June 12 in Aspen, CO. Fifty participants may bypass the lottery and ride, wine and dine with cycling celebrities. The prologue ride will cover 47 miles with an estimated 3,632' elevation gain, touring Pitkin County and the Roaring Fork Valley.

Charitable Contributions

Proceeds from Ride The Rockies and its ancillary events benefit The Denver Post Community Foundation that serves to improve and enrich the lives of those in our community by raising and distributing funds to metro-area and Colorado nonprofit agencies serving the areas of arts, youth, education and human services.

About ViaWest: ViaWest is a leading Hybrid IT solutions provider offering cloud, colocation, compliance services and security solutions, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Shaw Communications, Inc. (NYSE: SJR). With more than 16 years of experience, 30 North American data centers and nine cloud nodes, ViaWest offers IT and infrastructure solutions that solve business challenges while balancing cost, scalability and security requirements. ViaWest delivers tailored solutions designed for maximum reliability and flexibility backed by our 100% uptime commitment. For additional information on ViaWest, please visit viawest.com.

ViaWest has received many awards over the years; most recently The Denver Post's "Top 10 Places to Work in Colorado" and "Top Workplaces 2015", and Built In Colorado's "The Top 100 Digital Companies in Colorado". ViaWest was also recognized in the annual 2015 CRN Data Center 100 list.

About Ride The Rockies: Each June, Ride The Rockies participants venture on a six- or seven-day bicycle tour across Colorado's Rocky Mountains. The route is different each year, but always climbs a few challenging passes and showcase the state's spectacular scenery. To date, the tour has visited 46 different towns. The ride is exceptionally popular and approximately 2,300 applications are received annually. Ride The Rockies is embarking on its 31st consecutive tour, making the ride one of the oldest bicycle tours in Colorado.

For more information, contact Ride The Rockies at (303) 954-6700 or visit the event website at ridetherockies.com.

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