



CYCLISTS, GRAB YOUR BIKES!

COLUMBIA CENTURY CHALLENGE TAKES PLACE

June 16th, 2018

Grab your bike and ride the beautiful backroads of Columbia County, OR

- WHO:** Cycle Columbia County & NW Natural
- WHAT:** 3rd Annual Columbia Century Challenge bicycle ride
- WHERE:** Columbia County, OR / Heritage Park in Scappoose, OR
33568 E. Columbia Ave., next to Scappoose City Hall
- WHEN:** Saturday, June 16, 2018 - check-in and day-of-event registration begin at 6:00 a.m.
- INFO:** Cycle Columbia County and NW Natural announce the 3rd annual Columbia Century Challenge on June 16th. Registration is open and interested riders can visit www.cyclecolumbiacounty.com. There are two-course options: Century plus (112-122 miles) and the Metric Century Plus (82-92 miles). Cost of registration is \$45 per rider through June 1st, after which it rises to \$55 per rider.

"Thank you, Columbia County, for your support of the past two rides. We continue to grow the number of participants and the caliber of the event to help everyone discover what a gem we have here in our neck of the woods," said Paul Barlow, Columbia Century Challenge Event Organizer.

Cycle Columbia County, made up of a team of local cycling enthusiasts and community members, brought the idea of a century bicycle event to life in 2016. The event is now a proven success, earning #2 best ride in Oregon in its inaugural year in the ORbike poll. "We are humbled and proud to have competed with the top cycling events on the calendar to earn that award," added Barlow.

Columbia County features some great, bicycle-friendly backroads, from rolling roads through the old timberlands to farm roads through the open fields and pastures along the Columbia River, plus charming rural towns. It is the perfect backdrop for a fun and epic bike ride that has become an instant cycling classic. The routes are fun and challenging even for the toughest of cyclists.

This year's ride begins at Heritage Park in Scappoose, OR, and several community events are being offered in conjunction with the ride. Participants and visitors can enjoy the Scappoose Farmer's Market, and the first "Music in the Park" Summer concert, supported by the City of Scappoose and The Scappoose Community Club. There will also be food carts and a beer garden.

The event team is committed to ensuring a positive rider experience from start to finish. A fully-supported ride, riders can expect a well-marked route, stocked aid stations/rest stops



approximately every 20 miles, free mechanical support, SAG wagon, and communications support, free off-street parking near the start/finish, friendly volunteers, and more.

The goal of the annual event is to put Columbia County on the map as a prime recreational bicycling destination and encourage travelers and avid cyclists from around the region to explore all that Columbia County has to offer. In addition, ride profits are invested in local cycling improvements, such as recent installations of bike stations in Scappoose and Vernonia.

As Jonathan Maus, BikePortland, has said, "Columbia County is quickly starting to fulfill its vast potential as a bicycle recreation destination...With its proximity to Portland and diverse natural assets, it's exciting to see."

For detailed ride information and to learn more about the event visit www.cyclecolumbiacounty.com and www.facebook.com/columbiacenturychallenge for updates.

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