



Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure

Welcome to the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA) 2023!

You're receiving this e-mail because you're registered for the 2023 ride.

Thank you for your continued support of the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure - presented by Columbus Outdoor Pursuits!

As most of you know, we faced significant organizational and operation challenges in the past few years due to the pandemic. But, through your generous patience and support, we're confident that GOBA will be rolling for years to come!

We broke the model this year. Instead of maintaining secrecy about the region of Ohio we'd visit in 2023, we asked for your input. Its no secret that FAR northeast Ohio has been desired for years. Director Jeff ignored all the voices and guidance that said, "it cant be done." He is stubborn, perhaps a bit naive, but believes that when you ask for help....people will scramble to build the dream. **And thanks to many longtime GOBA friends in this unexplored region**, we're poised for an EPIC adventure in June!

Our limited staff resources, the region's unfamiliarity with GOBA, and the lack of some community resources to serve 1,000+ cyclists, has presented many challenges to build a successful GOBA. Again, we owe a debt of gratitude to so many of our GOBA friends that have contributed to this year's GOBA!

Please listen to, read, and digest the updates and guidance we'll provide over the next few weeks. **We will try to set clear expectations for various components of the tour.** For example - we'll have some longer stretches between rest/food stops this year. And due to the very remote nature of our adventure, the availability of food choices might be limited. However, the cycling routes are beautiful and many of the rest/lunch stops will surprise and delight you.

**Just remember that we're exploring a region that GOBA has never visited.
Northeast Ohio - the 34th time is a charm!!**

We plan to ***e-mail you several times in the upcoming weeks before GOBA*** - look for:

- Basic preperation and GOBA "vibe"
- Basic itinerary
- More details for each host community, entertainment, food, etc
- More details about routes & attractions/food on the routes
- Final check-in procedures
- Final routes by June 12th (for download to GPS devices & printing at home)

GOBA check-in:

Saturday June 17th – Noon – 8pm.

Ashtabula County Fairgrounds

127 N. Elm St.

Jefferson, OH 44047

The exact building & traffic flow map will be provided later.

Late Check-in will also be available Sunday & Monday

Basic preparation – please review these three webpages for procedures, guidelines, and tons of answers to all your questions on what to bring and how to survive. (click on the link)

1. [“How to GOBA”](#) – webpage includes basic guidelines...lots of them!
2. [“GOBA Camp Rules”](#) – webpage includes more details about the camping arrangements.
3. [“The Way to GOBA: Rider Handbook”](#) – A comprehensive handbook of operating standards, packing list, etc. This version is dated from 2019, but should be currently relevant.
4. Make sure your bicycle is in good working order.
5. Make sure your body is in good working order.
6. **Bring your cheerful disposition and adventurous spirit!!**

The GOBA vibe – this is a good segue to explain one of the principal objectives and expectations of GOBA. ***This tour was created to introduce cyclists to often-unexplored regions of Ohio, and to allow these communities to showcase their unique offerings and warm hospitality.*** GOBA riders, in turn, provide economic support to the local businesses and organizations that roll out their hospitality. These local organizations (youth, adult, civic, church, etc) generate meaningful support for their local activities, and hopefully are left with a warm feeling for cyclists after we leave. As cyclists on the road, we can use all the love and respect we can generate...yes? **So – support the local offerings** for breakfasts on site, snack & lunch stops, and dinners at the local eateries. When you see the compiled list of all the groups/organizations that have benefitted - you'll get the vibe!

The GOBA vibe - part 2 - Bring CASH! Lots of small, manageable denominations. Most of the local organizations will be swamped....serving a GOBA rider every 20 seconds for a crazy hour or so. **Assume that all your transactions will be in CASH.** (except for dinner restaurants in Willoughby & Kent)

Basic Itinerary for the Week

Saturday, June 17: Jefferson

— Arrive early and explore Ashtabula County's wineries and nightlife destinations. There will also be a community rib/foodfest and entertainment at the fairgrounds.

Sunday, June 18: Layover day in Jefferson (optional loop)

— 50 miles, Loop to Geneva on the Lake, wineries and covered bridges.

Monday, June 19: Layover day in Jefferson (optional loop)

— 50 miles, Loop to Conneaut, wineries and more covered bridges

Tuesday, June 20: Jefferson to Willoughby

— 50 miles, west through Ohio wine country with an amazing lunch stop in Fairport Harbor

Wednesday, June 21: Willoughby to Kent

— 50 miles, south through the Chagrin River Valley and Chagrin Falls

Thursday, June 23: Layover day in Kent (optional loop)

— 50 - 100 miles, southeast through remote Portage County

Friday, June 24: Kent to Burton

— 40-60 miles through Geauga County with the GOBA talent show and an Amish Feast at the oldest fairgrounds in Ohio.

Saturday, June 25: Burton to Jefferson

— 40 miles through the heart of Amish settlements to finish where we started.

Route details and mileages are approximate and subject to change. Shortcuts will be available on optional/loop days. Final routes, attractions and food stops will be provided the week prior to GOBA.

2023 CAMPGROUNDS

- Saturday, Sunday, & Monday nights, June 17-20: Jefferson, **Ashtabula County Fairgrounds** – 127 N Elm St., Jefferson, OH 44047
- Tuesday night, June 20-21: Willoughby, **Todd Field**, Glenn Ave., Willoughby, OH 44094
- Wednesday & Thursday nights, June 21-23: Kent, **Fred Fuller City Park** 601 Middlebury Rd, Kent, OH 44240
- Friday night, June 23-24: Burton, **Gauga County Fairgrounds**, 14373 N. Cheshire St., Burton, OH 44021

Stay tuned for more in the coming days!

Jeff Stephens,
GOBA Director

office@outdoor-pursuits.org

(614) 442-7901

GOBA is delivered by Columbus Outdoor Pursuits. We provide safe and full service bicycle and outdoor adventures that help build knowledge, experience and fitness that will create lifetime memories with friends.