

Community Rider Safety Briefing (*usually the Leader of 15km will read the Briefing*)

“Welcome everyone, to the(*name of the Ride*)..... Community Ride.

The **goals** of our Community Rides are to increase the presence of cyclists on city streets and to experience safe riding on streets, while cycling in a group. We hope that today's experience will boost your confidence in your ability to ride safely on streets while you are on your own as well. We would like for everyone to have fun while riding their bikes!

Our ride has two **distances**: about 5km and 15 km. Each group will be led by a **Ride Leader**, for today's 5km it is(*name of the Leader*)....., for 15km(*name of the Leader*). We are all volunteers. Please make sure that you choose the Ride distance according to your ability. If you signed up for a certain distance and you feel it may not be the proper one for you, you can always change your mind and ride the other distance. The groups will be closed by a **Sweeper**, a person who rides at the very end and watches out, in case someone gets separated from the group. At the end of our ride, we will have snacks/desserts at (*name of the snack place*), **courtesy of the City of Brampton**.

To be **safe** during the ride, please keep in mind the following rules:

- Even though you are riding in a group and with a group leader, **you are the only one** who is responsible for your safety. Make your decisions accordingly and use your own judgment.
- **Bicycles are vehicles**. Cyclists have to obey the rules of the roads in the same way as motor vehicles drivers do. Ride straight, on the right side of the road, obey all traffic signs and light signals.
- **Stop** at Stop signs and red lights. Don't worry if the other part of the group has passed through the intersection. They will wait for you and the rest of the group.
- At All-way Stop intersection, **more than one rider at a time** can cross, to shorten time for the entire group. Be courteous to the drivers who give you the way. Let them cross if they appear anxious and were there before you arrived, as they have the right of way.
- Use **hand signals** to communicate with other riders and car drivers: (*demonstrate hand signals*) right turn, left turn, slow down or stop.
- Please **do not ride in front of the Leader**. This person who knows the route well and will watch in front for possible risks to the entire group.
- Community Rides are not speeding competitions or races.
- On narrow roads with one lane of traffic, we ride in a line (or single file).
- Where there are two lanes of traffic in the same direction, we can take the right line as a group. Please **stay within that lane of traffic, do not “spill over”** to the other lane even if it's empty. Do not ride more than 2 side-by-side or abreast.
- Watch out for the parked cars so you don't get hit by the suddenly opened car doors. Pass them at a 1 meter (3 feet) clearance. It is very dangerous and scary to get “**the door prize**”.
- Watch out for **debris and road hazards**. Point them out to the riders behind you(*demonstrate pointing down*)..... to warn them. Pass back warnings to cyclists behind you.
- Yell “**Car back**” if there is a car behind you that is trying to drive by or overtake the group.
- Keep a **safe distance (ideally two bike lengths) from other riders** in the group, watch out so we don't bump into each other. If you are passing someone within the group, yell “Passing on left” to warn the other rider.
- **If the group has to stop**, pull off the road in a safe spot. Don't block the sidewalks.

Let's have fun and be safe! Thanks for coming to this ride and register for other rides as well.