

Cyclists' Participation Guide

Introduction

Welcome to the Gran Fondo Alleghany and thank you for your patronage of our event. We are committed to providing you with a quality cycling experience and hope you will come back every year to join us. Please read this Participation Guide prior to event day (Saturday, July 22)

Important Locations and Times

Rider Check-in

Friday, July 21

4:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Covington Farmer's Market

134 W. Main St.

Covington, VA 24426

Late Check-in

Saturday, July 22
6:30 AM – 9:45 AM
Rivermont School
331 W. Main St.
Covington, VA 24426

Bike Valet

Friday, July 21
4:30 PM – 9:30 PM
Saturday, July 22
6:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Rivermont School
331 W. Main St.
Covington, VA 24426

Event Parking and Shuttle Bus Load

Saturday, July 22
6:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Rose Av. Parking lot
Rose Av. and Church Sts.
Clifton Forge, VA 24422

Ride Start

Saturday, July 22
Gran Fondo – 7:30 AM
Medio Mountain – 8:00 AM
Medio Fondo – 8:30 AM
Piccolo Fondo – 9:00 AM
Downtown Covington
241 W. Main St.
Covington, VA 24426

Ride Finish

Clifton Forge School of the Arts
518 Church St.
Clifton Forge, VA 24422

Packet/Number Pick-Up

Riders may pick up their packets at the **Covington Farmer's Market** in downtown Covington on Friday, July 21 from 4:30 PM – 9:30 PM. Late packet pick-up is available at the same location (adjacent to the ride start) on Saturday morning from 6:30 – 8:45 AM.

Directions

To Registration and Start (Covington)

From I-64, take **Exit 14, VA-154**, toward Covington/Hot Springs. At the end of the ramp, make a **left** onto VA-154 North (S. Craig St.). After 1.2 miles, make a **right** onto **W. Locust St.** Take the **second left** onto **N. Lexington Av.** Then, take the **first right** onto **Main St.** The Covington Farmer's Market is at the end of the block, just across from the intersection with Monroe Av. There is on-street parking as well as a free municipal lot.

To Shuttle Parking (Clifton Forge)

From I-64, take **Exit 27** (U.S. 60 Business). Take U.S. 60 towards Clifton Forge. After 2.2 miles, you will **bear left** onto **Keswick St.** (staying on U.S. 60 Business). After bearing left onto Keswick, take the **first right** onto **Rose Av.** (tight turn – less than 90 degrees). The Rose Av. lot will be a short distance on your right, at the intersection of Rose Av. and Church St. Signs will be posted.

Event Parking and Shuttle Service

The Gran Fondo Alleghany Highlands begins in Covington, and finishes in Clifton Forge, VA, 12 miles distant. To encourage participation in the post-ride block party (and to avoid a weary ride back to your car), we request that riders park in a designated parking lot in Clifton Forge, close to the finish.

Shuttle busses will run from the parking lot in Clifton Forge to the start in Covington on Saturday morning from 6:00 AM to 8:30 AM. Busses will depart approximately every 10-15 minutes. The busses are **not equipped to carry bicycles**, so please make use of the **bike valet** in Covington, which is available for overnight storage on Friday night (you may drop off your bike after number pick-up), or for temporary storage on Saturday morning (6:30-9:30).

Bike Valet is in the Rivermont School, just down the block from the Covington Farmer's Market. Bicycles checked in at the school will be protected by an overnight armed security guard and the building will be under extra patrol by the Covington Police.

Use of the shuttle bus service is not compulsory, and riders may elect to ride to the start in Covington from their hotels, or from the parking lot in Clifton Forge. It is approximately 12 miles from the Clifton Forge lot to the start in Covington, so please allow the better part of an hour to complete the ride and not be rushed.

Bike Valet

If you use the morning shuttle bus service, please drop off your bike for temporary storage at Rivermont School, 331 W. Main St., Covington, VA 24426. You may drop off your bike after picking up your packet/numbers on Friday night, where it will be stored securely with armed sentry. Or, you may drop off your bike on Saturday morning prior to driving to the parking lot in Clifton Forge to load the shuttle bus. Valet storage is validated by the rider's number on a

sticker affixed to the bike. Please wear/bring your number to valet pick up to complete the claim process without hassle.

Area Lodging and Meals

There are several lodging and dining options throughout the Alleghany Highlands region. Please visit the Alleghany Highlands tourism website (www.visitalleghanyhighlands.com) for a complete list of local options.

Ride Details

The Gran Fondo Alleghany Highlands is a supported, non-competitive ride, and not a race. The course is open to traffic, and all stop signs and traffic lights must be followed by the riders. ***All Virginia laws as they apply to bicycles must be obeyed***: riders should use hand signals at turns, and may ride up to two-abreast on all roads.

- ***Numbers, Timing and Results***

Precision Race will again be providing premium timing and results for all riders. Every rider will receive three numbers. One contains the timing chip and should be placed on the right side of the helmet, as pictured below:



The second number is an adhesive-backed number that should be placed on the front of the helmet as pictured below. This number is for back-up photo results and so volunteers and staff can readily identify riders:



The third number is a standard pin-on racing bib that should be pinned on the back of the jersey. Again, this is for easy rider identification.

Precision Race will be timing all Gran and Medio Fondo riders on the Warm Springs Mountain climb. The “King” (top male) and “Queen” (top female) of the Mountain in both the Gran and Medio Fondos will receive prizes.

Friends and family of riders in the event can track their progress and see results live at <http://www.precisionrace.com/allegghany-gran-fondo-results/>

Precision Race is pleased to feature Gran Fondo Alleghany in the **ItsYourRace** smartphone app. Participants, family, and friends can download the FREE **ItsYourRace** app. Features include:

- See the **schedule of events and event locations** (including driving directions)
- Locate event **parking** (including driving directions)
- See points of interest including accommodations (with driving directions)
- See the list of **registered cyclists** to verify your registration.
- Prior to the race, find their name in the "Athletes" section and then **connect the app with your social media**. Your results will then be automatically pushed to your **Facebook** wall and/or **Twitter** feed!
- Check out the NEW **course maps**
- See searchable **LIVE race results** and the Leaderboard results during the race
- See the **awards list**
- See the sponsors that made this race possible.

Download the free **ItsYourRace** app at:

iPhone: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/its-your-race/id656514293?ls=1&mt=8>

Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.itsyourrace.android>

Once you install and run the app, simply search for "Fondo" and select the Gran Fondo Alleghany.

- ***Gearing***

Riders in the Gran and Medio Fondos will ascend Warm Springs Mountain, which is a serious climb and very steep (15% or more) in sections. We recommend that riders fit a 39x27 low gear **at the very**

minimum. Larger riders or those not so proficient at climbing should use a compact crankset or a triple to ride most comfortably. Gear low; don't be a hero!

- ***Descents***

What goes up must come down! There are several technical descents common to all routes and these are marked on the route sheets. Please be alert to regular road signage and take extra care when descending. Excessive speed or undue risks could result in a serious accident.

- ***Road Condition***

The course uses rural and semi-rural roads typical of the Mid-Atlantic. Some pavement is pristine, other sections are bumpy and broken and there are some chip-seal sections as well. Your lightest tires and wheels for racing applications are not recommended.

- ***Mechanical Support***

We will have a bicycle mechanic following the courses in a support vehicle. The mechanic will have spare tubes and is able to assist with minor repairs on the road. If you would like to place your own spare wheels in the support vehicle, you may do so with your name and event number clearly marked on a card placed in the spokes. There is no neutral support this year; we are following a wheels in/wheels out policy whereby you can only receive your own equipment that you have placed in the follow vehicle.

- ***Rest Stops***

There are a total of five rest/water stops on the Gran Fondo route, four on the Medio route and one on the Piccolo route. All of the rest stops will have water, Coca-Cola drinks, isotonic drinks and gels, and many will have fruit, cookies and sandwiches as well. It's July and it

will be hot – all riders are encouraged to stop and hydrate at the rest stops – spaced approximately 20 - 25 miles apart.

- ***Maps and Cue Sheets***

Detailed course maps will be available to riders at registration and rest stops. Laminated cue cards will be available at registration.

- ***Course Markings***

Turns and danger areas on the course will be marked with signage and painted turn arrows on the pavement. Routes will be marked with arrow signs using the following protocol:

- Single arrow before the turn
- Double arrow at the turn itself
- Single arrow for confirmation

- ***Medical Emergencies***

The Event will have EMTs and rescue personnel on call throughout the courses. If you need medical attention, notify the nearest course marshal or police officer, who can dispatch rescue help as needed. We have amateur radio operators providing communications for the event, and they will have a station at several of the rest stops. If you are unable to reach a road marshal quickly or easily, please follow this protocol:

- Call **911** (true medical emergency)
- Call **434-465-1179** (event director) for minor health or mechanical problems

Please do not call these numbers unless you have a situation that requires immediate assistance. Mechanical issues will be handled by the support/sag vehicles and may require a wait.

- ***Communications***

Event communications will be maintained by use of amateur radio operators, police and fire/rescue communications and cell phones. Cell coverage is good throughout all four routes. Riders are welcome and encouraged to bring along cell phones for emergency use.

- ***Weather***

The event will run rain or shine, with the exception of major flooding, which will cancel or postpone the ride. July in the Alleghany Highlands can be hot, but usually cooler than the Piedmont or coastal major cities. Afternoon thunderstorms are a possibility in the summer, and riders should take cover in the event of frequent lightning. Bring along a wind vest or arm warmers for the morning start – temps in the 50s are possible even in July.

- ***What to Bring With You***

Even though the GF Alleghany is a supported ride, there are some remote locations where dispatching needed supplies and attention can take time. Therefore, riders should prepare to be minimally self-sufficient anyway. Here are some things to take with you on the ride:

- Spare tube/pump/CO2 cartridge
- Money for snacks/extra food at stores along course
- Cell phone
- Maps/cue sheets
- Extra food/gels/water

- ***Sag Vehicles and Time Limit***

Each ride will have at least one sag vehicle to pick up tired/injured riders. Please do not have friends/family members drive the course behind you, although you may dispatch them to come pick you up, if an event vehicle is not nearby. All riders must complete the ride by 5:00 PM; if you are still on the course after 5:00, we cannot guarantee the presence of a marshal at intersections, nor that your time will be officially recorded.

Should you choose to abandon the ride without completing the full distance, please notify event staff, who will phone the timing staff.

Enjoy the Ride!

We wish you a safe and enjoyable cycling experience, and look forward to providing this to you.