

HERE ARE ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RATPOD

Q: DO YOU PROVIDE MECHANICAL AND SAG SUPPORT ALONG THE ROUTE?

- A: There will be mechanical and medical support, as well as emergent SAG support in case of injury. If you only plan to ride a portion of the course, riders are asked to start and end only at official food/water stops and should arrange for their own transportation.

Q: HOW MUCH OF MY ENTRY FEE AND DONATIONS/PLEDGES I RAISE GO TO THE CAMP?

- A: Our goal each year is to cover all RATPOD expenses with corporate sponsor contributions. If that goal is met, then 100% of both the entry fee and all rider-solicited donations are fully contributions to Camp Mak-A-Dream.

Q: I HAVE A FRIEND THAT WILL BE RIDING, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND JUST THE WRAP UP BARBEQUE. CAN I DO THAT?

- A: Normally, riders may purchase guest tickets for the post-ride BBQ, however, those tickets should be purchased in advance since we do have limited capacity for those meals. However, in 2021, we are limited on who may attend the post-ride BBQ due to COVID-related restrictions. Therefore, only riders will be allowed to attend. We hope to be back to "normal" in 2022!

Q: I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO BE A SPONSOR. WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT THAT?

- A: Thank you very much for your sponsorship offer. You can contact Courtney at Camp Mak-A-Dream (406) 549-5987 or courtney@campdream.org.

Q: I'D LIKE TO BUY JUST A T-SHIRT. IS THAT POSSIBLE?

- A: If we have extra event t-shirts following rider and volunteer check-in, you can buy them by calling Camp Mak-A-Dream (406) 549-5987.

Q: IF THIS IS LEVI'S "STOMPING GROUNDS" CAN'T HE GIVE US A CLUE ABOUT THE WIND?

- A: It is variable at best and a good idea to get an early start to avoid Westerlies. Riders will begin as early as 6:00 a.m. from the official start line in front of the UM-Western campus in Dillon according to the start wave they are assigned to (a change for 2021 to adhere to COVID-19 precautions).

Q: IS THERE A MINIMUM DONATION AMOUNT REQUIRED?

- A: Riders will be asked to raise at least \$100 in donations for the 2021 ride and are encouraged to raise as much as possible. Incentives include great prizes (awarded at the post-ride BBQ on Saturday night in Dillon), free RATPOD jerseys, early entry in the following year's rides to name a few.

Q: IS THIS A RACE OR A RIDE?

- A: RATPOD is a ride, not a race, however we there are timed Strava segments to declare King of the Mountain (KOM) and Queen of the Mountain (QOM) which riders can elect to participate in. Riders are welcome to do as much or as little of the ride as they like and may start/finish at any official food/water stop

along the route as long as they are a registered rider. **This ride is a fund raising event** for Camp Mak-A-Dream, a cost-free camp in western Montana for children, young adults and families affected by cancer.

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF THE RIDE? DO YOU NEED TO BE AN EXPERT RIDER TO DO IT?

- A: The full route for RATPOD follows a 127-mile loop through the Pioneer Mountains and up over the Scenic Byway. There is a fair amount of elevation gain, but riders are also welcome to break it up and ride as much or as little of the route as they wish, as long as they start and end at any of the official food/water stop locations and check in with event officials. There is also a 62-mile route. Please see the route descriptions on the RATPOD website.

Q: WHAT KIND OF FOOD WILL YOU HAVE AT THE FOOD STOPS?

- A: **Breakfast:** Grab & go breakfast will be available that may include burritos, bagels, fruit, coffee, hot cocoa, drinks. **Lunch:** Grab & go lunches will be available including sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit, drinks. **Water:** Watermelon, assorted fruit, water, power drink. **Pie:** Homemade pie, ice cream, drinks.

Q: WHERE IN DILLON CAN I STAY DURING RATPOD? CAN I CAMP AT THE UNIVERSITY?

- A: Please refer to Lodging & Area Attractions reference on our RATPOD website for motel, camping and dorm options. There will NOT be camping allowed on the UM-Western campus.