



Perris Press Release

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Tour de Perris Teams Up With USO

The City of Perris is teaming up with the universally known United Service Organization on the 2013 version of the already acclaimed Tour de Perris bicycle ride.

Organizers of the Tour de Perris contacted USO representatives in Ontario about supporting their event, which takes place October 5 and kicks off at Perris City Hall. The veterans' service group quickly came on board as a way to raise funds for its outreach efforts and to help get word of the Tour to the ranks of those in the military.

The USO is a non-profit, non-political group devoted to providing entertainment and recreation activities to American soldiers throughout the world. Currently the organization supports Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard service personnel in 14 countries. Thousands of USO volunteers do everything possible to provide a home away from home for U.S. troops and to keep them connected to the families they left behind.

The organization's motto: The USO will be there, until everyone comes home.

Gail Oylar, USO Ontario Center Manager, said the agency is delighted to help promote the Tour De Perris.

"I am excited that we are able to work with the Tour committee," she said. "Participating in this event will bring exposure to the USO and our mission and it is great fund-raiser for us."

In addition to the USO, proceeds raised from the Tour de Perris also will be used to expand Perris youth charities.

Rene Avila, Perris Assistant Director of Development Services, said the partnership between the City and USO is a win for both agencies. The USO gets needed dollars to purchase recreation equipment and fund sports-related activities. The City gets plenty of advertising through the USO's website and other portals.

Avila said he expects the 2013 Tour de Perris to meet or exceed last year's goal of more than 200 participants. The City Hall campus will host BMX trick riders, a raffle of bicycles and bicycle-safety equipment, martial arts schools and various vendors—making the Tour de Perris an event that truly offers something for everyone.

"We are excited already," he said. "We are eager to make Perris the physical-fitness hub of the Inland Empire."

He said Perris is proud of its red, white and blue theme this year.

"Our veterans do so much for us," he said. "There is no better cause to support than our military."

Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough took part in the 30-mile ride in 2011 and the 62-miler last year. He said this year he is considering stepping up his game to the 100-mile ride.

Yarbrough noted that the recently began a campaign—called "Live Well Perris"—to encourage its residents to eat better, watch their weight and get active. The Tour de Perris promotes good health and fitness.

"It's great to see this event literally take off and do so well," he said. "The City Council supports it and our staff is involved in making it happen."

Registration for the Tour de Perris opened this week.

As in the past, the Tour de Perris will consist of 100, 62, 30 and 8-mile rides as well as a Tour de Tots bicycle training expo. Between now and Sept. 29, registration for the 100-mile is \$70; the 62-mile ride costs \$65; the 30-mile fee is \$50 and the 8-miler is \$25. Day of registration fees are as follows: \$80 for the 100-miler; \$75 for the 62-mile ride; \$60 for the 3-mile ride and \$25 for the 8-mile ride. All participants in those events will receive a Tour de Perris t-shirt.

The first 100 registrants in the 100 and 62-milers also receive free jerseys, a \$65 value. Participants in those events also will be treated to lunch at Temecula's Wine Country. The lunch-stop destination is expected to be finalized in about a month.

Learn more on the [Tour de Perris website](#).



Riders take off in the early-morning light at the start of the 2012 Tour De Perris bicycle ride, which drew more than 200 participants. The third annual ride takes place this year on Oct. 5.



Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough and City Attorney Eric Dunn chat after completing the Tour De Perris ride in 2012. Yarbrough says of the Tour De Perris: "The City Council supports it and our staff is involved in making it happen."