



Perris Press Release

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Tour de Perris Features "Tour de Tots"

Perris officials know they can expect top-flight bicyclists from all over Southern California to take part in the second annual Tour De Perris ride on Oct. 6.

But for 2012, the City also is emphasizing bicycle safety and physical fitness for youngsters and their parents by adding the "Tour De Tots" ride around the Perris City Hall Campus.

That ride includes an obstacle course geared to teaching riders 6 and under how to navigate on two wheels for fun and safety. An 8-mile family ride also will take place as part of a day loaded with activities for parents and their children.

"We really want to emphasize health, fitness, nutrition and an active lifestyle," said Sara Cortes dePavon, a City staff member who is helping coordinate the Tour de Perris. "We want to get them off the couch. We've got a full day of activities geared toward youth."

To encourage parents and children to take part in the 8-miler, the fee for a family of four is just \$20.

Other activities scheduled for the Tour de Perris include three performances by the BMX Pro Tricks Team, which features stunt-riding and other crowd-pleasing maneuvers.

Those take place at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the Perris City Hall Campus, 101 North D Street.

The Big Game Trailer, a mobile video-gaming theater, is heading to Perris as well with an assortment of Xbox and Wii games available for playing. A bouncer will provide further fun and exercise for children.

Members of a Perris-based Filipino martial arts studio and a Polynesian dance troupe from Riverside and a disc jockey are slated to appear as part of the Tour De Perris as well. Food vendors will be on the campus selling a variety of items. Miss Perris, Sarah Holmes, will be there to show her support for the big day.

More than 100 people already have signed up for the 2012 Tour De Perris, a bicycle ride that includes 100, 62 and 30-mile routes. The longer routes take the riders from Perris to the Temecula Valley Wine Country, where lunch will be served at Lorimar Vineyards. The first ride—the Century—leaves City Hall at 7 a.m., followed by the Metric at 7:30 a.m. and the Half at 8 a.m.

Tour De Perris organizers expect a rush of last-minute participants to sign up in the days before the ride and are advising riders to beat the Sept. 29 deadline by registering now. Cost of the 100-mile "Century" ride is \$65; the 62-mile "Metric" ride is \$60; the 30-mile "Half" ride costs \$45. A portion of the proceeds of Tour De Perris jerseys will be sent to Perris Youth Charities, which supports a variety of youth-sports programs in the City.

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough rode the 30-mile course last year and in 2012 is stepping up to challenge the 62-miler.

"I am really, really looking forward to what is rapidly becoming one of our signature events," Yarbrough said. "I am surprised and pleased with all the excitement this ride has created in the cycling world. I believe it will grow into a can't-miss event, the kind people put on their calendar and make sure they attend."

Additional information about the Tour De Perris is available at www.cityofperris.org/bikeride; twitter.com/tourdeperris and facebook.com/tourdeperris or by telephoning the City of Perris at 951-943-5003, ext. 254.



The family-oriented Tour De Tots and a 8-miler ride are aimed at teaching youngsters bicycle safety while stressing physical fitness. The Lajom family—Kelsey, Kathy, Nicholas and Derick—flashes the thumbs-up after their 8-mile ride during the 2011 inaugural Tour De Perris.



A mass of riders departs from Perris City Hall at the start of the 2011 Tour De Perris bicycle ride.