21st annual Tour de Tonka hits the west metro trails Aug. 1

The bike ride will offer 16-, 24-, 40- and 58-mile routes

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(MINNETONKA COMMUNITY EDUCATION)

Riders take off on their bike routes across the west metro at the 2025 Tour de Tonka event.

Bicyclists are encouraged to strap on their helmets and join Minnetonka Community Education (MCE) in the 21st annual Tour de Tonka bike ride Saturday, Aug. 1.

The community-focused event offers participants of all skill levels and ages with an opportunity to enjoy a thrilling ride along the scenic trails of the west metro.

"We're just really encouraging people to come out and enjoy it," MCE Executive Director Kim Carlson said. "If you have kids, come on up to the event and check it out. We're just anticipating another great event."

The event will include 16-, 24-, 40- and 58-mile routes with varied terrains, hills, and occasional unpaved trails across the greater Lake Minnetonka area and beyond.

The 16-mile ride is ideal for beginner participants and families wanting to explore the Minnetonka community. An accessible rest stop will be located at Minnetonka Middle School East for riders to grab water and replenish.

The 24-mile route provides an opportunity for riders to explore cities throughout the Lake Minnetonka region — such as Delano, Minnetonka, Tonka Bay, Greenwood and more — without an excessive challenge. It's recommended for participants seeking a leisurely ride experience and includes a new rest stop in Minnetonka Beach.

For more experienced riders seeking a challenge, the 40- and 58-mile trails are the way to go. The 40-mile route includes two fully staffed rest stops in Orono and Mound, with music, snacks and bike mechanics to assist bicyclists with issues. The 58-mile route is a one-way trail designed for riders wanting to travel a longer distance. The trail spans across multiple west metro cities and offers more exclusive routes, with rest stops in Orono, Delano and Mound.

"We made the decision after a lot of consideration not to offer the 100-mile ride this year, based on safety, staffing, and resource limitations," Carlson said. "We met with our safety partners, police department, and just, all in all, finding the proper amount of volunteers to offer the 100. We just made the decision to keep it [a] community-focused event."

Although the 100-mile route for experienced riders will no longer be offered, MCE will be working with their local partners to provide attendees with familiar amenities from years prior.

Scheels is bringing volunteer bike mechanics to assist riders, Domino's is providing pizzas for participants and spectators, the Eden Prairie Police Department will oversee the event, and many other community sponsorships will be making contributions to ensure the 21st annual event is a safe and enjoyable experience.

Riders will also be receiving "swag bags" that contain helmet and bike stickers, as well as a rider T-shirt. An online apparel shop will also be established closer to the event, where those interested can purchase 2026 Tour de Tonka apparel.

This year's Tour de Tonka has a few new and exciting tricks up its sleeve, including designated cheer zones spread throughout the bike routes, with musical entertainment and activities for riders and their supporters. There will also be a family zone available before and after rides, where children in attendance can enjoy a bounce house, chalk, bubbles and other activities.

Local musicians like DJ Bill Lage, Kevin Siefering, Little Chicago, Pan Handlers Steel Drum Trio, Supernova, and Women's Drum Center will be located throughout the different rest stops and cheer zones to keep the energy high along the routes. A small selection of local vendors will also be in attendance near the finish line for eventgoers to browse.

MCE is still looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming event. The 2025 Tour de Tonka brought in 2,300 riders and 400 volunteers, and event coordinators anticipate similar numbers this year. Last year, MCE began using Volunteer Local, a new software that allows volunteers to choose their own work stations along the routes to make volunteering at the event even simpler.

"I think for me it's the community piece of it. It's the people who are being part of Community Ed by riding, by volunteering, by being a sponsor, by being a bike mechanic. There's just so many pieces that all come together," MCE Marketing Specialist Louise Weir said. "The [Police Department] support that we get; there's so many pieces to it that it's just become this event that really is part of our community and I'm really proud of that."

All participants will start and end at Minnetonka High School. Riders taking on the 58-mile route will begin 7 a.m., followed by all other riders at 7:30 a.m., or shortly thereafter. Riders 15 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult and will receive a reduced registration fee. Children 5 years of age and younger can participate in the ride in a bicycle trailer for free.

The money obtained through registration fees directly funds the Tour de Tonka event (staffing fees, swag bags, rider apparel, merchandise, etc.) as well as other MCE community programs. Part of the proceeds will also be donated to ICA (Intercongregation Communities Association) in Minnetonka.

