

## 75 & 90 Mile Route Descriptions & Things to Consider

### 2020 Hill Country Ride for AIDS

We're writing to let you know what to expect on our two long routes this year. The Ride starts/ends at Krause Springs. [The 90.5 mile route](#) is a carbon copy of years past. [The newly offered 75 mile route](#) traces the existing 90 mile route from the start but skips the 90-mile route's out and back just past lunch. We are not offering the 65 mile route we have in the past and while the mileage may not indicate, the new 75 mile route should NOT be viewed as 'just' 10 miles longer than the old 65 miler. These are very different courses. Based on the elevation profile, the new route is more challenging AND it is longer. Please read on.

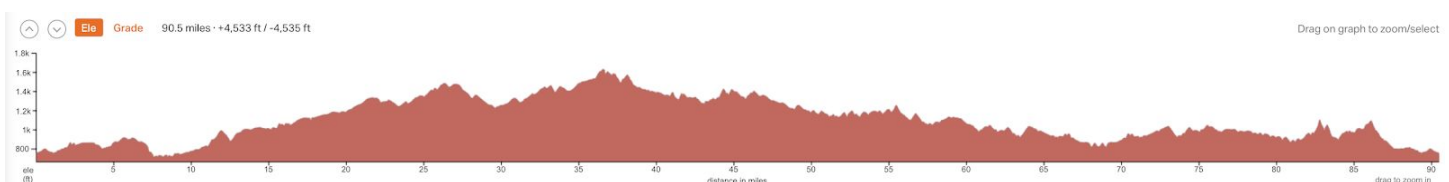
The 45/75/90-mile routes follow the same path to Pit Stop 3, but then the 75/90 routes split, turning north through Round Mountain, then down a quaint country lane to Sandy, TX, then continuing to Pit 5, before rejoining the 45-route at Lunch Pit. The roads on this 39-mile outer loop are similar to the other areas of the course, with a mix of quiet and somewhat busy ranch roads, but on a few of the roads traffic is heavier and traveling at considerable speed. Road shoulders are rare. As always, you should plan to ride single file along any trafficked road.

You will need to ride on Hwy 281 for about ½ mile just before you arrive at Pit Stop 5. There will be volunteers available to shuttle you across in a vehicle if you are not comfortable riding on this busy, but short, stretch of highway. After Lunch Pit, the 90 mile course will turn right onto a 7.7 mile spur toward the Pedernales River before reversing back to the 45-mile route near Lunch (consider refueling if needed) and riding on to Pit 7 at the top of the most significant climb of any route. Enjoy the views from "Mt McKinley" and then make your way to the Finish at Krause Springs. See below for a more-detailed description.

**7:30 Ride-out: The start for the 75 & 90 mile routes ONLY is from 7:30 to 7:45 am** from Krause Springs in Spicewood. After 7:45, you'll have to wait until the other routes depart at 8:30a. And then you will need to ride swiftly to make the cut-off gate at mile 23 by 10a (see below). Please line-up by the bike gate at the rear of the Krause property, with faster riders to the front of the line. You must be off the routes and back to Krause by 4 PM.

**Realistic Expectations:** We want you to have a safe, enjoyable experience on the Hill Country Ride for AIDS. We also want you to have a firm understanding of what you're signing up for. Both the 75 & 90 mile routes are very challenging. Offering roughly 4000 and 4500 feet of gain respectively, these routes are breath-taking. Literally. "Easy on the eyes, hell on the thighs" we say. **It's very important that BOTH your physical fitness and your bicycle's mechanical fitness are prepared for a long day of climbing and descending.** Busy highway crossings, a ½-mile ride on Hwy 281 with fast traffic, areas with limited to no shoulders, probability of active low water crossings in areas, loose livestock...this is an advanced ride. **You need to be comfortable riding with fast traffic on a busy highway – otherwise you can wait for SAG to lift you across those areas.** Of course there is a beauty on the route that rewards your effort. Please expect to ride at least an average of 15 miles an hour for 90-mile riders and 13 miles an hour for 75-mile riders over six hours with about 10-12 minutes at each pit stop and 30 minutes at lunch. You know what works best for you, so determine your pace and stops so that you are well past when gates or pits close.

Elevation profile of the 90 mile route:



**Route Gates / Closures:** In order to make sure that everyone finishes by 4PM, we limit access to outer portions of the route and close pit stops as the day progresses. If you arrive after a closure time, please respect the volunteer's requests to turn as indicated and focus on completing a shorter route.

**10 AM - Mile 23 – Entry to the 75 & 90-mile Outer Loop CLOSSES, just past Pit Stop 3. After 10:00, all riders will be required to turn left toward lunch pit on the 45-mile route** (although you could turn it into a 70-mile ride if you were creative, taking the 90-mile route spur by the lunch pit mentioned below). Once you enter the 39-mile 'Outer Loop', you commit to riding through the Pits 5 & 6 and into Lunch Pit. You don't have the option to turn around. The highest point of the 75/90 routes is still to come. So before making that commitment, please check with yourself on your energy-level, desire, the time, wind and weather conditions before starting that distant loop.

**1PM – Mile 60 – Entry to 90-mile Spur CLOSSES, by lunch pit** – this is an out-and-back ride to Westcave Preserve just before the Pedernales River on Hamilton Pool Road with moderate traffic (7.7 miles each way). Please don't attempt passing the turn-around point at Westcave preserve as a steep and rough descent soon follows, with a dangerous, one-lane river crossing and steep, rough ascents following.

**SAG & other support on route:** You will be swept forward by SAG if you are not past a pit stop or if you have not completed a route before it closes. And several Route Troupe teams will be posted a key turns and occasional hazards. bit less so on the outer loop, so carry your map and keep an eye on signage.

**Medical:** There should be assistance with first-aid issues by a medical tech at each pit stop but be aware that in cases of more severe trauma, facilities are not close which will delay ambulance and your treatment. **You ride at your own risk.** There may be a few bike medics riding among you, so another cyclist may stop to lend a hand if you so allow.

**Bike Mechanics:** Bicycle Sport Shop's roving mechanic van will remain on the 45-mile route, so please carry the gear, tubes, etc., that you may need as you'll be miles away from mechanical assistance. A few SAG vehicles will be on the outer routes if you need assistance to get to the bike mechanics.

#### **Description of Route and Terrain:**

- From the **7:30a start at Krause Springs**, you have fairly peaceful riding past Pit 1 (doesn't open until 8:30a; portajohns available) to mile 9.3 when you start a series of rises bringing you to Pit Two (mile 21. may be open) and shortly after to the highest point on the 45-mile Route at mile 22 or so, just before Pit 3.
- **The entry 'gate' to the outer section at Mile 23 closes at 10a.** Arriving by 10a, you will turn right/north, soon crossing with care busy Hwy 281, then follow moderately busy RR 962 for several miles, slowly climbing higher, with grand vistas opening up to the right.
- Turn left on Smith-West Ranch Road, a small country ranch road with deer, wild turkey, maybe even gazelles, a few mild low water crossings (weather dependent) and several cattle guards. After passing the high point for your route, you soon reach Pit Stop 6 (**Pit Stop closes at 11:30a**, riders arriving later than 11:30 will be taken to Pit stop 5 via SAG) and then ride further downhill to RR 1323, turning left to Sandy with moderate traffic and loads of bluebonnets across the hills. You'll have larger rolling hills as you approach Hwy 281, where you turn north for ½ mile on a busy, fast-moving 4-lane highway. There are wide shoulders at first, but they soon narrow substantially. **WAIT for SAG if you are uncomfortable.** We can't guarantee your safety on this or any other section of the ride.
- You then turn right/east to Pit 5 on a quieter country road. After the pit stop, you will encounter a series of smaller hills and basins, bringing you to Lunch Pit in Cypress Mill at mile 60 or so.
- Just after lunch, those planning **90 miles will have the option until 1PM** to turn right on an out-and-back route of 7.7 miles each way (skipping this spur and riding to the finish will give you 75 miles). As mentioned above,

don't ride past the turn-around point as it is soon a dangerous, rough, one-lane road and you will have no support from the Ride.

- Coming back from that 7.7 mile spur brings you back to **Lunch Pit (closes at 2:15)**. While the route from lunch pit to pit 7 looks mild, the few steep hills starting at Mile 82 for three miles present a late challenge (and a hilltop pit stop reward!), followed by a grand downhill around Mile 85, as you sail and undulate to the finish.

It is a beautiful route for advanced riders only and we celebrate those of you who delight in the challenge!

### Routes General Information

**7:30 – 7:45 AM Start:** **75 & 90-Mile Route Riders only** – passing six pits on their ride

**8:30 AM Start:**  
**13-Mile Route:** 6.5 miles to pit stop 1, then reverse.  
**27-Mile Route:** 13.5 miles to pit stop 2, then reverse.  
**45-Mile Main Route:** This is the main loop with four great pit stops (about 43-miles total).

**Bike Start Gate:** Ride-out is at the REAR gate at Krause Springs and line up with the fastest riders to the right, toward the front of the start line, leisurely riders line up to the rear.

**Directions to Krause Springs (ride day HQ):** Krause Springs, 404 Krause Springs Rd. Spicewood, TX 78669

Allow about 45 minutes from downtown to get to Krause Springs. Please drive carefully.

- Following *TX-71 West* for 30 minutes or so to *Spur 191* in Spicewood (you'll go past Bee Cave, across the Pedernales River Arm of Lake Travis, and then to the second traffic light over the highway at the Exxon station in Spicewood, on right),
- Turn Right on *Spur 191* at the Exxon convenience store
- Drive 1 mile to your first intersection, *CR 404*.
- Turn right onto 404 and drive ¼ mile, cross a low-water crossing, and Krause main gate is on the left.
- Turn left into main gates, follow gravel road to parking area where volunteers will direct you.

Krause Springs Google location: <https://goo.gl/maps/ikFbCuUXpY5znYTr6>