

JoyRide Leading 101

Thanks for signing up as a JoyRide Leader! You keep our riders safe and on course during the practice rides, and bring energy that motivates people to come out every weekend.

As a JR leader, your most important role is keeping people safe. Key to that is effectively marking turns, and setting the example with good hand signals and verbal cues while riding.

- At the start of a ride, several of the strongest JR leaders should head out at the start of the pack. The strongest leaders should mark the first turns, as they will have to leapfrog to the next turn when the next leader catches up. Other leaders should get to the middle of the group, but only the “caboose” should be at the end.
- As soon as one JR leader reaches another, the resting one (or two if it is the front leaders) should proceed quickly and safely to the next turn and either relieve the JR leader waiting there or head to the next turn. Keep in mind that the riders doing the most “catch-up” are the ones one or two turns behind the front rider, so if you are a strong rider, you do not want to become the very front leader.
- Try to keep two JR leaders at the front of the group. This provides a backup if the group starts spreading out.
- We won't mark the first few turns on some rides where there are many turns (such as leaving Bicycle Sport Shop). It tends to tie up too many leaders, and when we are just out of the gate the group is all together.
- If the main group arrives at the front and only one JR leader is there, the JR leader should encourage the group to wait until another JR leader arrives. If people choose to forge ahead, they should be reminded they are “on their own.”

Check your phone when stopped to mark a curve, as this year we'll use text when needed (especially if the riders spread out very far). We'll put out a list of JR leader phone numbers. Always set the example and never use your phone while moving.

Please use front and rear bike lights. This sets the example for safety!

While you are stopped at turns, take pictures! You are in a great spot to promote the ride. Remember to post your pics publicly with the hashtag #HCRA2020.

In case of a medical emergency or concern:

- **Assist the person, quickly ask pertinent questions about how they are feeling, and call 9-1-1 if warranted.**
- **Flag another rider to assist.**
- **Call Taylor (512) 804-8119 or Duncan (830) 385-6902 if Taylor is not available.**

Road Behavior, Signals, and Safety

Always use these, and set the example for our riders! Coach riders in their use as needed.

Slowing, Stopping, Stop Signs, and Lights

Use signals and callouts for slowing and stopping.

Callouts:

Slowing



Once safety is assessed, yell "Clear" and wave riders through. If necessary, remain at the sign or ask a rider to remain at the sign to make sure people further back do not blindly go through (very important when crossing high speed and multi-lane road).

Stopping

Clear

One can "flash" one's hand by opening and closing while yelling, "Slowing!"

Try not to hold up cars too long. Break up the group if needed to let them pass.

Obey all stoplights.

Turns

Callouts:

Left Turn



Right Turn



* Images courtesy of the Canadian province of Halifax.

Can also point with the right hand.

Road Hazards

Point out hazards and call out. Be sure your pointing is not confused with other signals.

Callouts:

Gravel

Crap in the road

Hole

Point at the hazard, taking care not to confuse it with a signal. Typically for gravel or multiple objects one would rotate/shake one's hand.

Approaching Traffic and People

Always yell out when a vehicle is coming from ahead or behind. Yell out if a car is turning or merging into the bike right of way.

Callouts:

Car up

Car back

Use your discretion to warn of other bikes and pedestrians ahead. Typically when you are rounding a curve and others behind you may not see.

Car right / left

Encourage riders to pass on the message! "If I yell 'Car Back!' you yell...?"

Bike up

When approaching a JoyRide Leader marking a turn, yell and gesture if you want them to move on.

Walker up

Passing

Call out, "On your left," when passing and encourage riders to do so.

Callouts:

On your left

Riding Style

Typically, our riders should ride single file. Even if it appears safe, the closer people are to another lane, the more risk from a driver who swerves. Riders should typically stay in a line and avoid weaving.

Typically we use bike lanes and shoulders, but this is not required. Sometimes safety requires use of the road. If so, consider "taking the lane" with one rider partway in so cars cannot pass unless safely.

Discourage drafting.

Encourage coexistence with cars. Maintain our safety, but also share the road.

All riders must wear helmets and not use headphones/earbuds. Riders should not be actively using handheld electronics – especially when riding closely with others.