

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Saratoga Foliage Ride. October 5-6, 2024.

Presented by



Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Saratoga Foliage this October 5-6<sup>th</sup> in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York! Last year's inaugural event was a big success, attracting nearly one hundred riders from near and far. In addition to locals, we had riders from Connecticut, Florida, Maine, New Jersey, New York City and South Carolina!

And the reviews were great! Survey respondents rated our first ever ride a solid 4.1 out of 5 stars! Some rider comments:

"Great job planning the ride overall. The routes were beautiful!"

"King Dairy stop was awesome" and "The ice cream was delicious!"

"We are planning to recommend the ride to our club next year."

This year we look to build on that success. And we have a lot to build on. The combination of a world-class tourist city and adjacent rural cycling routes makes Saratoga Springs a special cycling destination.

"We have beautiful routes with rolling hills, open farmland, great Fall foliage and Revolutionary War history," said Ed Lindner, Bikeatoga's Advocacy Chair, "And when you're done riding, you can spend your afternoon and evenings shopping, dining, and enjoying the nightlife in downtown Saratoga Springs. If you're a cyclist, this is the perfect Autumn weekend getaway."

Saturday's rides will meander through fields, farmlands, and gorgeous foliage, with a rest stop at a local legend -- the King Dairy farm store! The King family has been farming in Saratoga County for over 100 years. It's never really too early for ice cream, is it? Cyclists on Saturday's 50- and 75-mile routes will travel along the Hudson River on the Empire State Trail and Champlain Canalway Trail.

Both Saturday's and Sunday's rides will visit the Saratoga Battle Monument, a 155-foot-tall stone obelisk built in 1883 to commemorate the 1777 Battle of Saratoga. Climb to the top for a spectacular view! And Cyclists on Sunday's 50- and 75-mile routes will ride to the Saratoga National Historical Park, passing through the very fields where colonial forces first defeated the British army – the "Turning Point" of the American Revolution.

"We have an opportunity to make the Saratoga Foliage Ride a premier Northeast regional cycling event," Lindner said, "A similar event in Staunton, Virginia draws 750 riders. We can do that here."

## About Bikeatoga

Bikeatoga is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation created in 2005 that is dedicated to making cycling more convenient, accessible, and safer in and around Saratoga Springs, NY. The group operates a bike workshop in the basement of St. Peter's Church that repairs and recycles used bikes and gets them back out into the community, often to families of limited means, on a free or "pay what you can" basis. In 2023, Saratoga families adopted more than 700 bikes from Bikeatoga.

Bikeatoga offers a variety of programs to support safe cycling. Grant funding allows them to provide free helmets, locks and lights to community members who need them.

Our Mobile Repair Vehicle, funded by the City of Saratoga Springs Participatory Budget Process, provides pop-up bike maintenance and safety gear giveaways at locations throughout the city.

From April through November, Bikeatoga leads a monthly "Slow Roll," a guided family-friendly group ride on Saratoga's quieter streets. In November there's a Pie Ride!

Bikeatoga also actively advocates for more public investment in cycling infrastructure. In 2021, Bikeatoga organized the Saratoga Safe Cycling Coalition, a group of 28 local businesses, institutions and non-profits that collectively support actually building the network of sidewalks and bike lanes in the 2016 Complete Streets plan. Our partners include Saratoga Hospital, Skidmore College, Saratoga Regional YMCA, the Saratoga Springs Public Library,