



CT Challenge 2020 - Changing Gears Frequently Asked Questions

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General

Will CT Challenge host a Ride Weekend this year?

No, CT Challenge will not be hosting a mass Ride in 2020. Instead we're redefining what it means to participate in the CT Challenge by allowing you to set your own fundraising and activity goals in the new CT Challenge platform.

What is my own CT Challenge this year? How should I plan to participate this year?

This year we're putting the CT Challenge in the hands of our community to define their own fundraising efforts and goals. All participants in the new platform will register and set up to five personal activity goals they want to strive for that will provide personal motivation and excitement to their network to support cancer survivors. All participants can set a fundraising goal and will be rewarded with CT Challenge swag for reaching different fundraising milestones. Example activity goals include:

- Physical efforts like training to ride a specific number of miles, walking a cumulative distance this summer or mastering a new yoga pose
- Community volunteer efforts with local organizations
- Creative activities such as shaving your head, acts of kindness or teaching children a new skill

The My Challenge platform will share goal suggestions when you register, and CT Challenge community leaders are already setting examples.

As we always have, we'll celebrate all efforts the weekend of July 24 with a live broadcast that mirrors the CT Challenge Opening Ceremony program which our community has come to love and champion each year.

When can I register for the CT Challenge?

Registration will be available June 5. If you have already registered as a Rider, Virtual Rider or Volunteer in 2020, you will need to log into the new My Challenge platform beginning June 5 to confirm your details to have an active 2020 registration.

Where will money raised this year go?

While we may not be physically able to reach cancer survivors across the US, we are excited to launch the COVID Relief Fund for cancer survivors through Mission. Funds raised will be used to offer virtual programs such as music therapy, nutrition and meditation workshops, mental health support as well as live on-demand exercise classes. To see the impact of the CT Challenge funding under Mission, please visit https://yourmission.org/covid_cancersurvivors/.

Why make a decision on hosting the Ride now?

As we've learned more about COVID-19, we've decided it's simply not safe to physically gather 2,000+ people from around the world to ride, cheer and volunteer, as we have for the past 16 years. This decision was made to prioritize the health and safety of our community and eliminate any distraction our event would pose to the first responders who play an integral part during Ride Weekend.

Registration

Is there a registration fee?

No, the CT Challenge will not require a registration fee this year. If you've already paid a Rider registration fee for 2020, you have the option to either (1) apply those funds toward your 2020 fundraising or (2) transfer your registration fee to 2021.

If you have already paid your registration fee, please complete our brief survey available <https://forms.gle/FhBqj6kX6T8638hw7> to tell us how you'd like us to handle your registration fee.

If I'm already registered for the CT Challenge this year do I need to do anything to register for the new registration?

Yes, starting June 5, you will need to log into your profile to enter your fundraising and activity goals, completing your 2020 registration process. All current donations you have earned will be rolled into your profile.

Is there an age requirement to participate in the CT Challenge this year?

No, **CT Challenge** will not have a minimum age to participate in 2020. Gather your family and friends because all ages are welcome to join!

Should I still encourage my family, friends and co-workers to participate in CT Challenge this year?

Absolutely! the **CT Challenge** has waived registration fees and fundraising commitments, ensuring anyone looking to make an impact on cancer survivors can do so in the way they feel most comfortable.

Fundraising

Is the CT Challenge changing fundraising requirements for 2020?

While there are no minimum fundraising requirements for 2020, we know that cancer survivor support is more critical today than ever. In place of required fundraising minimums, participants will have the opportunity to earn incentives based on their fundraising efforts.

Can you help me understand what not requiring fundraising minimums means?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, we have decided not to require fundraising commitments in 2020. This means that participants who paid a registration fee and entered a credit card at the time of their registration prior to June 5 will NOT have their cards charged for a fundraising shortfall after the fundraising deadline.

The **CT Challenge** will still offer participants the option to commit to a fundraising goal beginning June 5. The **CT Challenge** will not collect a credit card for these participants during the registration process, but instead reach out after the October 15, 2020 fundraising deadline with specific instructions about how to donate to meet the participant's goal.

Will the CT Challenge offer ideas, tools and resources for fundraising and virtual fundraisers this year?

Yes, we understand that support might look different for your donors this year. To assist with fundraising, you can find tips, ideas and resources for how to build your fundraising letter this year, [click here](#). We encourage you to leverage the toolkit for your fundraising efforts, and we hope you will share your fundraising stories and new ideas on My Challenge. It's also a great time to get creative - maybe ask donors to sponsor each mile as you work toward a meaningful milestone or offer to share activities on social media for additional donations.

Will there be a fundraising deadline for this year?

The registration and fundraising deadline for 2020 participants is October 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Will fundsharing be available this year?

No, fundsharing will not be available for team members in 2020. Teams will be able to distribute funds raised through team fundraisers to members and should contact Andrew Newbold at andrew@ctchallenge.org to discuss options.

Is there an "auction" platform that I could host virtual auctions for the CT Challenge?

Yes, we have an auction feature as part of our online platform, Shopify, where we can either open the auction up to the community or we can simply send out secret links to those that would like to participate. Contact andrew@ctchallenge.org to learn more.

Participation

Should I join or organize a Team to participate in the CT Challenge?

Yes! Joining or organizing a Team is a great way to get involved in **the CT Challenge**. teams will continue to be a key part of how our community is organized and engaged throughout the year. If interested in starting or joining a team, please reach out to Andrew Newbold at andrew@ctchallenge.org.

My employer traditionally commits funds or matches donations. How will that be affected this year?

Employer matching and commitments are made at the discretion of each organization and company. We encourage you to reach out to your Team leaders for more information. See our website to find your company match <https://bike.ctchallenge.org/matching-gifts-search/>.

How should the CT Challenge volunteers or those that line the routes as cheerleaders participate in 2020?

While the need for event volunteers and spectators won't be the same as in years past, our hope is everyone continues to offer their time and support by joining us. Like-minded goals could be volunteering with another local organization, writing thank you letters to others participating in the CT Challenge offer support for those in need of a helping hand in your neighborhood.

Can volunteers fundraise?

Definitely! We encourage all volunteers to register and set up a personalized fundraising page. There are no fundraising requirements or registration fees so everyone can participate and get the word out about supporting cancer survivors. In light of the economic hardship many people are facing we are counting on more people bringing in small donations in 2020.

Will all participants be in the same category for 2020 instead of Riders, Virtual Riders and Volunteers? Will this year still count toward my participation streak?

Yes, your participation this year still counts! While all participants will be considered part of the same category this year this will not affect your status in reaching participation milestones.

I've registered as a Road Warrior - will I be held accountable for my \$3,000 fundraising commitment?

No, if you registered prior to the June 5 the re-launch you will not be held to the \$3,000 fundraising commitment. We hope you'll re-register and keep your goal at \$3,000. All participants who raise \$3,000 or more will receive the incentive awards.

What steps do I need to follow to register for the CT Challenge?

Starting June 5, you'll [visit bike.ctchallenge.org](https://bike.ctchallenge.org) to register. You will login with the CT Challenge profile email and password that you've utilized in the past to complete this process.



How many goals can I set in 2020 with the CT Challenge?

All participants can set up to 5 goals on the CT Challenge website.

Honoring and Commemorating Loved Ones

How can I honor someone who faced cancer through my campaign?

The CT Challenge plays an important role in celebrating and commemorating our loved ones and that won't change. Here are some ways to do so this year:

- Honor Flags will be on display from Tuesday, July 21 – Sunday, July 26 at the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church Grounds in Fairfield, Connecticut (1045 Old Academy Rd). Drop by in person to complete and plant a flag or email "Honor Flag" to info@ctchallenge.org with a name and message and we will plant a personalized flag for you. Check with our volunteer staff on times for drop off during this week. volunteer@ctchallenge.org
- Tell your honoree's story on your personal fundraising page.
- Use the CT Challenge 2020 Changing Gears social media frame to create a virtual honor flag

Can I still highlight my survivorship or show that I am riding for someone who has or had cancer?

Yes, as a 2020 participant, you'll still be able to designate your survivorship when you register and display this on your profile. And you'll be able to customize your profile with information about why you're participating and those you support.

My company won't fulfill a volunteer donation request unless I actually volunteer. Is there anything I can do to help?

Our team would love to help you identify a volunteer opportunity that meets your company's criteria. Please email volunteer@ctchallenge.org so we can help!

Gifts

Will I still receive a Rider gift bag this year? Will volunteers receive gifts?

As we transition to the My Challenge platform for 2020, we have transitioned gifts to be incentives provided to participants as they reach the following fundraising milestones:

\$250	CT Challenge tee
\$500	\$25 gift card to The CT Challenge Shop + CT Challenge tee
\$1,000	\$50 gift card to The CT Challenge Shop + CT Challenge tee + CT Challenge hat
\$2,000	\$100 gift card to The CT Challenge Shop + CT Challenge tee + CT Challenge hat + CT Challenge hoodie
\$5,000	\$250 gift card to The CT Challenge Shop + CT Challenge tee + CT Challenge hat + CT Challenge hoodie + CT Challenge cycling jersey or premium performance shirt

Events

I'm planning a fundraiser for later this year - should I continue to plan?

While we encourage you to continue planning fundraisers, we also want to stress that you should follow all current public health guidelines at the time of your event. Our team is also available to help you think creatively about virtual ideas and alternatives for your event.

Will there be smaller in-person events hosted by the CT Challenge?

No. At this time we do not have any immediate plans for in-person events hosted by the CT Challenge. We will continue to monitor health safety guidelines and adjust accordingly.

COVID-19

Are cancer patients and survivors more at risk for COVID-19?

Ongoing research is still exploring the connections and risks of COVID-19 for cancer patients and survivors, but other viruses in the corona family often cause more severe illness in people whose immune systems are low, such as cancer patients undergoing treatment. Recent studies indicate that cancer survivors are at higher risk for contracting COVID-19 and have a higher risk of death.

General Operations

Is this a one-time change for this year or how the CT Challenge will look for the future?

We have every hope of gathering in 2021 for the ride, but components of the 2020 CT Challenge platform will be used in the future. The CT Challenge has never been just about getting on the bike, so it's time our virtual experience showcases all of the creative ways our community is rallying support!

Can I still get a yard sign? Where can I pick one up?

Yes! Yard signs will be available and you will be able pick them up from some of our local business partners at ASF Outdoors in Westport. Keep your eye out for an email that will notify you when yard signs are available for pickup.

Team Captains and Leaders

Will there be a new toolkit for captains? Should we continue to host recruitment events?

Yes, an updated toolkit for captains is available [click here](#). We also encourage the use of virtual recruitment sessions to energize your co-workers and team members. We've outlined new recommendations for recruitment in this Team Leaders guide as well.

How should we get our Team members engaged? So much of our energy for the year came as part of kick-off events.

We understand this and have included recommendations and ideas in our new Team Leaders guide. Don't underestimate the passion and interest of your Team members and the power of virtual kick-off sessions. If you need help or suggestions on things we see are working out in the community, please email

heather@ctchallenge.org and we'll be happy to help!

Should we order team jerseys/shirts this year?

Creating 2020 jerseys and shirts is decided by each Team. Many Team are using jerseys from previous years and reallocating those funds to donations for research and/or fundraiser costs. The CT Challenge will offer t-shirts for sale year-round.



Donation Processing

Can I still bring donations and checks to the CT Challenge office?

In alignment with CT Department of Health guidelines, our office will remain closed until further notice. Please send all checks to our check processing lockbox at:

CT Challenge
PO Box 566
Southport, CT 06890

For UPS/FedEX mailings please ship to:

CT Challenge
1771 Post Rd East #316
Westport, CT 06880