

Torch Ride For Special Olympics



This year's 14th Annual Torch Ride to Benefit Special Olympics AZ was again hosted by Chester's Harley-Davidson. Unlike last year, when the ride diverted from tradition & departed from The Pavilions in Scottsdale; this time riders staged at the dealership, located at 922 S. Country Club Dr. in Mesa.

It was a beautiful day for a ride... A chilly morning departure called for layers, which were gradually peeled off & stored in saddlebags so as to enjoy the warmth of AZ's 'Chamber of Commerce' weather.

The day kicked off with a pancake breakfast before riders saddled up and rolled out. The scenic, police-escorted ride ended at WestWorld in Scottsdale. The ride fee included entry into AZ Bike Week's CycleFest at WestWorld.

Over the years it has been determined that several waves of bikes are better for the overall traffic condition, rather than holding intersections for a procession of 1000+ motorcycles. As much as WE all think it's more than awesome... and we find it hard to believe... it seems that there are some people

out there in the world who flat out don't care to sit at a blocked intersection for a half hour or more as we parade through {:o) Therefore, the ride has been broken up into 3 segments, so as to prevent trying the patience of the cage-bound public.

1250 riders participated in this year's run. Word came back to us that a bike went down during the ride. Fortunately, we learned that the incident was minor and everyone is fine.

"The Torch Ride has become one of our favorite events during Arizona Bike Week," explained Joe Morrow, General Manager, Chester's Harley-Davidson. "It is a lot of fun for a great cause. We were so happy to do this for the athletes."

Comments coming back indicate that attendees felt the gathering and ride were well organized. One concern in particular that we've heard expressed has to do with how much of the money actually goes to the cause. We're happy to let you know that through the generosity of Chester's H-D and their fellow corporate sponsors covering all of the fees associated with this event, ALL monies collected from

the riders' entry fees DO go to Special Olympics. These sponsors include Chester's Harley-Davidson, Walmart, Law Tigers, Law Enforcement Torch Run, City of Mesa, City of Scottsdale, Department of Public Safety, City of Fountain Hills, Starbucks Coffee, and Arizona Bike Week.

The goal at Special Olympics Arizona is "to empower the over 180,000 Arizonans with intellectual disabilities to be healthy, productive, and respected members of society through year-round sports training, competitions, and support programs." from their website www.specialolympicsarizona.org/. Your participation in this very worthwhile cause helps to achieve this goal.

This is always a great event to attend. We enjoy it every time. Kudos to Chester's H-D, their fellow sponsors, & all the riders who came out on behalf of Special Olympics Arizona. We hope to see you all and many more at next year's run.

Bruce & Betsy

online, click the title to see lots more parade photos