

Proficient Group Riding

Everyone is responsible for their own safety.

Ride Leader's Responsibilities

1. Planning routes
2. Scheduling
3. Overnight and eating arrangements
4. Deciding when and where to make pit stops and when to depart.
5. Safety: setting the pace; adjusting to changing conditions
6. Group rides are oriented to accommodate the least experienced riders and the smallest gas tanks.
7. Finding parking with enough room for all bikes.
8. Smooth starts and stops: remember the last bike in the line has to go fastest to catch up, and stop quickest in slowing down.
9. Suppress "wimpophobia." Create a non-competitive atmosphere. Problems happen when riders get past their comfort zone.
10. More participants mean longer breaks and slower riding
11. Colder or rainy weather requires more frequent breaks
12. Consider dividing larger groups into smaller groups of 4-5 riders of similar skill levels and inclinations

Tail Rider's Responsibilities

1. Stay in contact with leader, preferably via CB
2. Stay behind the slowest rider. Stop with anyone who stops.
3. Performs "Back Door" function for passing on multilane roads: Tail Rider signals Ride Leader it is a good time to pass, then Tail Rider moves into left lane to secure it or "close the back door." Then other riders beginning with the Ride Leader move into the left lane

Sgt-At-Arms' Responsibilities

1. Travels in second position behind ride leader
2. Performs "Sweep" for troublesome drivers in order to pass efficiently on two-lane roads.

Participant's Responsibilities

1. Be a responsible, considerate and safe rider
2. Be ready to leave when the leader is, gas, bathroom, helmets on
3. Maintain safe, regular interval and staggered positioning. When there is a change, be ready to move to a new position
4. Change to single file through twisties or narrow roads.
5. Make right half of lane open for Sgt-at Arms to advance to front following "sweep"
6. If you're dropping out, let the ride leader (or tail rider) know
7. Less experienced riders should be positioned further forward for easier riding

Getting through the green light

1. Everyone should obey traffic signals. You won't get left behind.
2. At stop signs, two abreast can advance

Hand Signals

1. Road hazard: point down on left or right
2. Slow down: left hand moving down, palm down
3. Turn off turn signal: open and close fingers above head
4. I need fuel: point at tank

