

# Beloit and Beyond tour ready to roll for Aug. 6

By ERIN KELLY Staff writer | Posted: Saturday, July 16, 2016 4:00 pm

BELOIT — Pedal to the metal — or not — at the fifth annual Beloit and Beyond Bike Tour set for Aug. 6.

The check-in booth will open at 6 a.m., but Beloit and Beyond Bike Tour Committee Chair Sue Fugate said riders are at their leisure to begin biking whenever they want.

“It’s a beautiful ride (and there are) lots of different distances to choose from,” she said. “We really love to have people ride and buy one of our groovy T-shirts.”

Riders can choose from several routes, ranging from a 4.1-mile route to a 100-mile route that runs from Beloit to New Glarus and back. New this year is a 17-mile loop from downtown Beloit to Big Hill Park. There also is a route to Brodhead, which is 25 miles one way or 50 miles round-trip.

Riders can see sunflower fields, dairy cows, farmland and hills on these different routes. Every route starts at the registration area at 110 W. Grand Ave.

The event is free, though riders frequently give donations to help pay for the costs associated with putting on the event, Fugate said.

Riders can also support Beloit and Beyond Bike Tour by purchasing T-shirts when they register on the Beloit and Beyond website. Register online by July 29 or register at the event. Small to extra large T-shirts are \$23 and double extra large T-shirts are \$25.

There are water stops along all the routes and riders are given a wristband with contact information to summon help if their bikes break down along the path. The support services end at 4 p.m.

Riders are responsible for bringing their own equipment. Helmets are not required, but Fugate said she recommends them.

There will likely be 100 to 150 participants this year, and Fugate said the committee isn’t interested in trying to attract more people.

“We’re not trying to be something,” she said. “We’re not hungry to get big. We’re just simple.”

The event started when Fugate and the other members of the volunteer committee realized there weren’t any bike paths in Beloit.

“We started thinking, ‘Oh, we’ll just do this once and call it a day,’” she said.



## Ready to roll

The Beloit and Beyond Bike Tour is to roll into Beloit for its fifth year on Aug. 6. Volunteers seen here ready to host bicyclists for the event.

Five years later, Fugate said the reason they've kept doing it is their riders.

“Our riders are really grateful and we're suckers for being appreciated, so we just keep doing this,” she said.