

Global Agents for Change

RIDING TO BREAK THE CYCLE 2009 (EUROPE) APPLICATION

Thanks for your interest in Riding to Break the Cycle! So you're ready to truly impact your world, to grow as a leader and a person over the course of this epic 4000 kilometre cycling journey? Great - we're excited to build a dynamic team to continue the momentum of our 2007 and 2008 tours, critically engaging with global issues, speaking to thousands of people, and raising over \$150,000 so far for youth leadership and microcredit initiatives.

European Route Note – 8 weeks and 4000 km from Amsterdam to Istanbul, 2009 is the inaugural year for the European Route and much is subject to change. As compared to the more established Pacific Coast Route, this tour is best suited for individuals with patience and a sense of humour, as even with thorough preparation plans may change frequently and/or unexpectedly.

This application consists of five sections:

1. Contact and Personal Information
2. Rider Requirements
 - a. Fundraising
 - b. Pre-ride participation
3. Essay Questions
4. Policy Agreement & Waiver
5. Application Fee

Our Commitment to You

In the course of this application, we ask for several commitments from you. In exchange, we promise the experience of a lifetime. This will not include hotels or masseuses, and there will be no 5 star meals, but it will be an incredibly unique opportunity to join a team of like minded, inspired youth in a shared mission to make a positive and lasting impact on the planet.

Our dedicated team in Vancouver will ensure all trip logistics are organized, from food to accommodation to routes and safety. We'll provide cool opportunities for you to interact with the communities you pass through, and to learn from them and each other. Lastly, we'll give you the tools you need to make sure your trip is a success, and your hard work and determination has direct and lasting impacts on the ground in the fight against poverty.

Our goal is nothing less than to change the world; we need your help.

Mail all materials to:

Global Agents for Change
14312 18th Ave
Surrey, BC
Canada V4A7G2

Applications are accepted on a **first come first serve basis**. We will be able to consider your application once all sections are completed in full and the application deposit is received.

Current Deadline ***if spaces remain***

January 23, 2009

Up for an extra challenge? We're also recruiting Ride Leader Interns and support team drivers.

For each of the two 2009 routes Global AFC is looking for outstanding Ride Leaders (3), drivers (1+) and support team members to assist in organizing and running Riding to Break the Cycle '09. Ride Leaders may cycle or act solely as support and are responsible for all aspects of planning and managing the tour, with strong support from the organizing committee and head office at home.

Ride Leaders must be between the ages of 18-30 and will work with the organizing committee in the months leading up to the ride to recruit and guide riders, plan logistics, and lead the tour. Support team members or drivers may be any age.

This is a life changing opportunity to be an integral part of the '09 tour while developing your leadership skills and resume – if you think this sounds like the kind of challenge you're looking for, we can't wait to hear from you.

Ride leaders complete the same application as other riders to be accepted to the tour. Simply email info@globalafc.org with the subject line "RIDE LEADER" for further information and to talk to former ride leaders about the experience! Please indicate your interest on the first page of the application.

For more information on the ride and Global Agents for Change please visit www.globalafc.org.

Ride on,

Global Agents for Change

Part 1

PERSONAL & CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____
(First, Middle, Last)

Email: _____

MSN and/or G-chat if applicable: _____

Skype if applicable: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Gender: M / F Citizenship: _____
(Year/Month/Day)

Area of interest, study or profession: _____

School and Graduating Year (if applicable): _____

Current City, Country: _____

Home City, Country: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Country: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Interested in Ride Leader Position Y / N

A. FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENTS

Each rider will fundraise \$3,000 by the start of the trip.

Riders will be able to join the Riding to Break the Cycle tour only after Global Agents for Change has received the entire \$3000. This is entirely feasible and we will help you every step of the way!

IMPORTANT - To ensure that riders do not fall behind in fundraising efforts, Global Agents for Change *asks that each rider raises and submits \$1,500 by March 15th, 2009*. If not, you will be offered to pay the difference on that date; otherwise, your spot may be rescinded and offered to a waitlisted rider.

What is the reasoning behind this policy?

If we hold a spot for an individual not meeting the fundraising requirements, we do so at the expense of those we are trying to help, and a rider that will fulfill the requirements.

We are more than happy to provide you all the support you will need to reach your goals! This is not intended to intimidate anyone from taking part, but the fundraising objectives are to be taken seriously.

In the case of your withdrawal, restriction from participation, or failure to meet the fundraising requirements for Riding to Break the Cycle, your fundraising balance will be considered a donation and will not be refunded.

IMPORTANT - Riders may not share fundraised amounts to meet requirements. Each rider must reach their \$3000 goal individually.

I understand and agree that if I do not raise \$3,000 by the start of the trip, I cannot participate in Riding to Break the Cycle, and that if I do not raise \$1,500 by March 15th, my spot may be offered to someone else.

Applicant's Signature

Date

B. PRE-RIDE PARTICIPATION

Pre-Ride Contribution

This is YOUR ride. We rely on the skills and energy of the unique people who come together for Riding to Break the Cycle, and we believe it is important for riders to feel ownership in its production. Every participant has an opportunity to help in organizing the tour and contribute to group fundraising and awareness.

This will translate into 2-4 hours a week maximum, unless explicitly agreed to be more in further discussions. We understand the responsibilities school and employment impose and will of course remain flexible. Your efforts here will have an enormous impact on the success of the tour.

Note – The pre-ride contribution for this route may be somewhat greater as this is the inaugural European trip and much remains to be planned and organized.

Communication

It is very important that riders reply promptly to emails and phone calls from trip leaders or Global AFC representatives. Riders also commit to making every effort to take part in online meetings, online groups to share information, and other chances to communicate with the rider team.

Orientation

Riders commit to being at the start of the tour a minimum of 3 days prior to the beginning of the tour for orientation. Expenses are not covered for these 3 days.

Equipment

Riders commit to securing a touring bike capable of withstanding the rigors of a 4000 kilometre tour. This bike must pass our inspection after shipping to the start point. We have a great bike shop partner in Vancouver to provide advice and deals on bike equipment. Contact us before choosing your bike!

I have read and understand my responsibilities to contribute from 2-4 hours a week from the time of my acceptance, to ensure prompt and regular communication, to arrive at the orientation city 3 days prior to the tour start, and to secure an appropriate bicycle.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Part 3

ESSAY QUESTIONS

The Global Agents for Change team would like to get to know you a bit better! We've included several short questions below to get a better feeling for who you are and why you wish to be involved with Riding to Break the Cycle.

Please include answers on separate sheets of paper - 300 words maximum per question.

1. Please tell us about your past volunteer experience and/or involvement with social causes. We do value those looking to get involved for the first time, so either way just share what drives you as a young person to explore global issues and help people you've never met before. Show us your passion!
2. As an opportunity for immense personal growth and a collaborative experience, it is important that each rider realize they have an equal responsibility in making this the best experience possible. So:
 - a) What are your goals for this trip - what do you hope to learn and accomplish?
 - b) What personal strengths do you contribute to the team, and how will you strive to make this an unforgettable experience for all involved?
3. One of riders' primary responsibilities before the trip will be planning engagement opportunities for the team with communities and organizations along the way. Tell us something cool you would like to do to add to team learning opportunities, community engagement, fundraising and/or awareness activities on the road.
4. Why have you chosen the European Route?

RIDING TO BREAK THE CYCLE WAIVER

1) I understand that my participation in Riding to Break the Cycle, a Global Agents for Change event, is a potentially hazardous activity, which may result in serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis, and death. I fully assume all risks associated with my participation, and discharge Global Agents for Change and their employees, directors, agents, volunteers, officers, and partners from all actions, claims, or demands for damages arising from my participation in Riding to Break the Cycle, and affiliated Global Agents for Change events. The foregoing release shall be binding upon me personally as well as upon my heirs, executors/administrators, and family members.

2) I understand that I am NOT able to participate in Riding to Break the Cycle without appropriate travel medical insurance. I agree that I have checked with my insurer that long distance cycling and travel in Holland, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey is covered. If my insurance proves inadequate I take complete responsibility for inadequate medical coverage and will not hold Global Agents for Change or its agents responsible for any costs, inconvenience, or other hardships related to inadequate coverage.

3) I understand that Global Agents for Change reserves the right to deny or cease my participation, for cause, in Riding to Break the Cycle at any time before or during the tour. In exercising its reasonable discretion to refuse or cease participation, Global Agents for Change may consider the following grounds: inaccurate or incomplete applications; failure to meet the fundraising requirements or deadlines; failure to meet the pre-ride participation requirements or deadlines; physical or medical inability to participate; violation of any Global Agents for Change and Riding to Break the Cycle policy; or behavior that is dangerous to or detrimental to myself or other participants. I further understand that in the case of my withdrawal or expulsion from a tour, my fundraising balance will be considered a donation to Global Agents for Change and will not be refunded.

4) I understand that Global Agents for Change reserves the right to restrict my participation if deemed to be unsafe or medically inappropriate. I agree that I will not participate in Riding to Break the Cycle unless I am medically able to do so and unless I am properly trained. I understand that a doctor needs to certify that I am medically capable of participating in Riding to Break the Cycle. I further agree to undergo any prescribed medical treatment in the event of accident or illness during Riding to Break the Cycle. It is my responsibility to inform Global Agents for Change of any changes in my medical condition before the tour begins. Failure to meet any of the above conditions may result in my dismissal from Riding to Break the Cycle.

5) I agree to always wear a helmet while cycling during Riding to Break the Cycle.

6) I agree to the use of film, photo, or video images of myself taken during Riding to Break the Cycle (including orientation, events and other group activities) by Global Agents for Change for organization, promotion, documentation or other purposes.

7) I agree to abide by all rules and policies as directed by Global Agents for Change and their agents (including but not limited to trip leaders), and understand that if I do not understand any of the rules it is my responsibility to ask Global Agents for Change to clarify them for me. I understand that my failure to abide by Global Agents for Change and Riding to Break the Cycle's rules and policies may result in my expulsion from the tour.

I have read this agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by agreeing to it and have agreed to it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Part 5

APPLICATION FEE

The application fee for Riding to Break the Cycle is \$200 payable by cheque. **This fee WILL ONLY be retained if we are able to offer you a spot on the trip. Your payment will not be processed if we cannot offer you a space.**

While the fundraising requirements are an indication of others' faith in you and support of the cause, this application deposit is your commitment to us and your fellow riders.

This fee is used for general administration of the ride, including your jerseys, Global Agents for Change t-shirts, and orientation materials (info pack, fundraising guide, microcredit backgrounder). We will not be able to process your application until the fee is received, and once you have accepted the offer to take part, your application fee will be forfeited if you withdraw.

Please include a check or money order with your mailed application, payable to Global Agents for Change:

Agents of Change
14312 18th Ave
Surrey, BC
Canada V4A 7G2

IMPORTANT – Note that cheques are made out to “Agents of Change”, not “Global Agents for Change”.

We'll notify you of receipt of your application, and provide guidance on how to proceed - we can only accept the first 25 qualified applicants and will post a notice on the website when the tour is full. Please contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Congratulations on a big decision, and we look forward to getting to know you better!

The Global Agents for Change Team
www.globalafc.org