



For Immediate Release

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Women's History Bike Ride August 15

Route will Include Historic Sites and Health and Safety Precautions

Alexandria, VA – What promises to be an early morning healthy and fun twist on history will wind its way in and around Alexandria, Virginia **Saturday, August 15, 2020**. A “Women’s History Bike Ride” – an outdoor event to recognize this year’s 100th anniversary of the August 18, 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Amendment granted American women the right to vote. The route will take participants to sites associated with many of the area’s heroines of the past.

The **free, family-friendly event** is sponsored by Alexandria’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), Alexandria Celebrates Women and the Alexandria Spokeswomen. The ride will feature safety-conscious **staggered start times (7:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., or 8:30 a.m. EDT)** for small groups of eight riders or fewer. The event will begin near the Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections on North Royal Street in Old Town. The 14-mile route will consist of a mix of trails and neighborhood streets (with a few hills). Participants are welcome to join for all or part of the ride. <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31837986>.

For everyone's health and safety, the following precautions will be taken: breaking into small groups of 10 riders (one ride leader, one sweep, and eight participants); requiring registrants to sign up in advance for specific time slots; asking everyone to self-screen and not ride if they've experienced symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, sore throat, muscle aches) or if they have been exposed to a known COVID-19 case within the last 14 days; asking participants to wear masks at the meeting start and during the history stops, and also while riding, if they can breathe comfortably while doing so; asking people to give each other social distancing space at history stops and while riding (at least 10 feet, and preferably 20 feet); keeping an eye on local COVID-19 conditions; and cancelling the ride if needed. Participants will be asked to sign a waiver before the ride.

"This ride will be a fun way to learn about some of the trailblazing women who helped shape Alexandria over the centuries. We'll celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment by highlighting Alexandrians who were active in the suffrage movement, and we'll also talk about notable Alexandrian women who served in government," stated BPAC Vice Chair for Bicyclists, Josephine Liu.

Participants are required to bring a working bike and helmet, a face covering, hand sanitizer and water and to wear weather-appropriate clothing. Riders are encouraged to wear women's suffrage-era (early 1900's) costumes or American suffrage colors of purple, white and gold and/or decorate their bicycles with suffrage colors.

Registration is free at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-history-bike-ride-tickets-113229135392>

Event: Women's History Bike Ride
Location: Ride start – Outdoor brick courtyard on N. Royal St. between Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections and Weichert Realtors, 132 North Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314 (*across N. Royal St. from Alexandria's Market Square*)
Date: Saturday August 15, 2020
Time: Staggered Ride Starts: 7:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., or 8:30 a.m. EDT

About BPAC

The Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization that promotes walking and biking, and infrastructure and policy changes that create a safe, accessible, and livable city for all.

About Alexandria Celebrates Women

Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW) recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Alexandria's women of the past, present and future. The volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization also encourages area associations and individuals to not only celebrate a woman's right to vote, but to champion for all, the importance of voting and voter registration.

About Alexandria Spokeswomen

Alexandria Spokeswomen is a group of women and female-identifying persons who like to bike or use bikes to get around in Alexandria. The group plans events and group rides, such as its annual "Women on a Roll" ride each May; and is especially supportive of newcomers, whether that means new to bike commuting, bike maintenance or gaining confidence to ride with a group. Many members choose to be active in the community, spreading their joy of biking through volunteering and advocating for infrastructure to support biking and safety.

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