

## Remember the Removal (RTR) Bike Ride Program

Applications Accepted beginning 7:00 AM (CST) on Monday, September 6, 2024

**Application Deadline: 11:59 PM (CST) September 30, 2024**

**Please read the entire introduction to the Remember the Removal Bike Ride Program to see if you qualify to participate before completing the application below.**

### **Program Description:**

The Remember the Removal Bike Ride is nearly 1,000 miles in length. However, it is not simply a test of endurance but is a program that teaches the history of the Trail of Tears so that we, as Cherokee people, never forget the struggles our ancestors endured while being forcibly removed in 1838 from our homelands in the east to Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma).

### **What Cherokee Nation is looking for:**

The selection committee, whose members will not be related to any applicant, will carefully review the essays and applicant data submitted for many factors. We are looking for young Cherokee Nation citizens willing to garner knowledge of Cherokee history and their ancestry related to the Trail of Tears. Successful applicants enjoy public speaking, being photographed, videoed, interviewed and interacting with the public. Program participants may be interviewed by many media organizations during the event, as well as asked questions by the public we meet along the way--we're looking for riders who are personable, well-spoken and make great ambassadors for the Cherokee Nation, as many of the people we meet have never met any real Cherokees!

### **Pre-Ride Requirements:**

If selected to participate in the program you will not only be required to participate in a rigorous physical training schedule; you will be required to attend language and history classes learning about the Trail of Tears. You will also be making presentations at many events and/or be asked to participate in other organized rides during this year and in future years.

### **Qualifications: All applicants must meet the following list of requirements to qualify for this program:**

- - Must be a Cherokee Nation citizen.
- - Must not have participated in this program in the past.
- - Age 16 to 24 years as of January 1 prior to the event.
- -Must commit to riding the entire three-week bicycle ride in June
- - Submit a photograph of yourself along with your application Form ID number written on the photo to [rtr@cherokee.org](mailto:rtr@cherokee.org)
- -Essay Questions: (A.) Explain leadership roles and skills you possess. (B.) List and explain your cultural activities (C.) Explain why participating in the RTR Bike Ride is important to you.

Submit your essay question answers for A, B, and C, in 12 point font, double spaced, minimum two pages, along with your application Form ID number written on the front page of the essay to [rtr@cherokee.org](mailto:rtr@cherokee.org)

- - Be able to pass a sport physical provided by a physician during the post-selection orientation.
- - Must commit to physically attending all mandatory trainings and classes in Tahlequah.
- - Must list two personal references (Name, email, phone(s), Length you have known reference) for your recommendation to the RTR Program. References listed **SHOULD NOT** be from Cherokee Nation employees, Cherokee Nation Administration or Tribal Councilors. References should be from someone with whom you have worked academically or professionally and whom you've known for a minimum of three years.
- If selected, must provide written documentation from employer, school administrators, and/or coaches, if applicable supporting your participation and being absent from work/athletic event during the mandatory weekend trainings and for the three-week ride.

#### **RTR MENTOR APPLICANTS**

**DEADLINE: 11:59 PM (CST) ON September 30, 2024**

In addition to the Program Description listed above. We are looking for a mentor rider that will motivate the rider positively, promotes safety, leads by example, follows instructions of RTR Support Staff, displays examples of integrity, respect, honor, discipline and courage, promotes team building, encourages physical fitness by stretching with the team, maintains accountability and mentors future Cherokee leaders.

**Qualifications: All MENTOR applicants must meet the following list of requirements to qualify for this program:**

- - Must be a Cherokee Nation citizen.
- - Must not have participated as a Remember the Removal Mentor Rider before
- - Must be 35 years old or older as of January 1 prior to the event.
- -Must commit to riding the entire three-week bicycle ride in June
- - Submit a photograph of yourself along with your application Form ID number written on the photo to [rtr@cherokee.org](mailto:rtr@cherokee.org)
- --Essay Questions: (A.) Explain leadership roles and skills you possess. (B.) List and explain your cultural activities (C.) Explain why participating in the RTR Bike Ride is important to you. Submit your essay question answers for A, B, and C, in 12 point font, double spaced,

minimum two pages, along with your application Form ID number written on the front page of the essay to [rtr@cherokee.org](mailto:rtr@cherokee.org)

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- - Be able to pass a sport physical provided by a physician during the post-selection orientation.
- - Must commit to physically attending all mandatory trainings and classes in Tahlequah.
- - Must list two personal references (Name, email, phone(s), Length you have known reference) for your recommendation to the RTR Program. References listed **SHOULD NOT** be from Cherokee Nation employees, Cherokee Nation Administration or Tribal Councilors. References should be from someone with whom you have worked academically or professionally and whom you've known for a minimum of three years.
- If selected, must provide written documentation from employer, supporting your participation and being absent from work during the mandatory weekend trainings and for the three-week ride.

If you have any questions about the application please contact, **Heather Fite** at 918-453-5000 or [Heather-fite@cherokee.org](mailto:Heather-fite@cherokee.org), or Cherokee Nation c/o RTR Bike Ride Program, Education Services, PO Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465

**Click the following links for the ONLINE Applications:**

(DO NOT forget to email your photo to [rtr@cherokee.org](mailto:rtr@cherokee.org) by the **deadline September 30, 2024**.)

-RTR Application

-RTR Mentor Application

9/4/2024