THE RIDE MUST GO ON! TEXAS 4000 SUMMER RIDE FROM AUSTIN TO ANCHORAGE GOES VIRTUAL

UT Austin Student Riders Launch Virtual Ride to Engage More People and Communities in the Fight Against Cancer

AUSTIN, TEXAS—The Texas 4000 for Cancer 2020 summer ride has gone virtual due to risks related to Covid-19. Rather than embark on the annual 70-day ride from Austin to Alaska, the team of University of Texas at Austin students are putting on a virtual ride from May 29 through June 26, 2020, to raise awareness of cancer. Texas 4000 will broadcast live daily and invite the public to make ride dedications and join the riders cycling indoors as we share ride dedications, cancer awareness and prevention information, and feature stories of riders, individuals, families and other organizations engaged in the fight against cancer.

“The global pandemic has brought our communities, our country and our world to a standstill, but cancer hasn’t stopped,” said Scott Crews, Texas 4000 Executive Director. “That is why the ride must go on. The global pandemic may have taken the 2020 team off the road to Anchorage, but it has not diminished our passion for sharing hope, knowledge and charity in the fight against cancer. The fight continues.”

This year, Abbott, the global healthcare leader, is the presenting sponsor for the summer ride, supporting Texas 4000 for Cancer’s efforts to help people and communities become more aware of preventing cancer for a healthier life. Keith Boettiger, vice president of Abbott’s neuromodulation business located in Austin, said, “We are impressed with the commitment of these young women and men to the fight against cancer. Their leadership in bringing cancer prevention education to people and communities across the United States is a service to us all. Even though they are unable to make their journey to Alaska this summer as planned, their efforts and dedication to raise awareness are not in vain as they continue the fight.”

For 17 years, Texas 4000 for Cancer has cultivated student leaders and engaged communities in the fight against cancer through the longest annual charity bike ride in the world, a 4,000 mile journey from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska. Each year, students from UT Austin begin an 18-month leadership development program, preparing their bodies, their minds and their hearts for this mission, which culminates in this life-changing journey. Collectively, riders have helped raise more than $11.6 million dollars, pedal more than 5.2 million collective miles and impact countless lives.
“The young women and men of the Texas 4000 have poured their heart and soul into preparing for the summer ride and it is heartbreaking to have to take them off the road,” said Megan Lueders, Chair of the Texas 4000 Board of Directors. “Yet I could not be more proud of the way that they have risen to the challenge, turning their disappointment into opportunity. They have quickly adapted to our new environment realizing the pandemic creates an opportunity to engage more communities and more people in the fight against cancer. We believe, together we can beat cancer.”

Visit www.Texas4000.org for a complete schedule of events and to view the live broadcasts daily.

Broadcast Schedule:

**Monday, June 1—Friday, June 26**

Weekdays:
Sunday – Tuesday: 7:30AM – Ride Dedications; 8:00AM – Cycling Program with Riders

Wednesday – Friday: 8:00PM – Ride Dedications; 8:30PM – Cycling Program with Riders

Saturdays: 7:30AM – Ride Dedications; 8:00AM – Cycling Program with Riders; 5:00PM – Cancer Awareness & Prevention Talk; 6:00PM – Cycling Program with Riders

**ABOUT TEXAS 4000**

Texas 4000 for Cancer’s mission is to cultivate student leaders and engage communities in the fight against cancer. Each year a team of dedicated University of Texas at Austin students complete a more than 4,000-mile bike ride from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska sharing Hope, Knowledge, and Charity along the way. Over the course of their 18-month involvement with Texas 4000, riders train, fundraise, volunteer in the community, and serve in leadership roles to help plan every aspect of the summer ride. The leadership development program culminates in Texas 4000’s capstone event, a 70-day summer ride - the longest annual charity bike ride in the world. Since 2004, more than 900 students have completed the ride, raising over $11.6 million and logging more than 5,257,500 miles – fighting cancer every mile. Find us at texas4000.org, instagram.com/texas4000, facebook.com/texas4000 or twitter.com/Texas4000.
For media inquiries please contact Shannon Cunningham, Associate Development Director at 512.745.0572 or shannon@texas4000.org

For 16 years, Texas 4000 for Cancer has cultivated student leaders and engaged communities in the fight against cancer through the longest annual charity bike ride in the world, a 4,000 mile journey from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska. Each year, students from The University of Texas at Austin begin our 18-month leadership development program, preparing their bodies, their minds and their hearts for this mission that culminates in this life-changing journey. Collectively, riders have helped raise more than $11.6 million dollars, pedal more than 5.2 million collective miles and impact countless lives. The global pandemic has taken the 2020 team off the road to Anchorage, but it has not diminished our passion for sharing hope, knowledge and charity in the fight against cancer. The fight continues.

This year, the 2020 ride has gone virtual. In this challenging time, the young women and men in the Texas 4000 leadership program have risen to the challenge, turning their disappointment into opportunity. They have quickly adapted to our new environment realizing the pandemic creates an opportunity to engage more communities and more people in the fight against cancer. We believe, together we can beat cancer.

Instead of riding to Alaska over the course of 70 days, from May 29th through June 26th, our team of 78 riders will be on their bikes pedaling to raise awareness of cancer. Cancer is an insidious disease that impacts one in two men and one in three women in the U.S. We will broadcast live daily and invite the public to make ride dedications and join the riders cycling indoors as we share ride dedications, cancer awareness and prevention information, and feature stories of riders, individuals, families and other organizations engaged in the fight against cancer.

• Our daily broadcasts will spread hope, by letting those touched by cancer know that we are riding for them and we are fighting for a world without cancer.

• Our daily broadcasts will share knowledge by delivering life-saving information about cancer prevention and awareness.

• Our daily broadcasts will share charity by giving us a platform to continue to raise funds to support cancer research and support services.

The global pandemic has brought our communities, our country and our world to a standstill, but cancer rages on. That is why the ride must go on. Join us as Texas 4000 makes the 2020 summer ride one that reaches more people, more communities and does more to impact the fight against cancer than ever before.

Follow us on Social Media
Calendar of Events: The Virtual Ride takes place May 29-June 26
Sunday-Tuesday (all times CST)
7:30AM – 8:00AM Ride Dedications Broadcast
8:00AM – 9:00AM Cycling Broadcast

Wednesday – Friday (all times CST)
8:00PM – 8:30PM Ride Dedications Broadcast
8:30PM – 9:30PM Cycling Broadcast

Saturdays, June 6, 13, & 20 (all times CST)
7:30AM – 8:00AM – Ride Dedications Broadcast
8:00AM – 9:00AM – Cycling Broadcast
5:00PM – 6:00PM – Cancer Awareness & Prevention Talk and Meet the Riders Broadcast!

2020 Summer Ride Virtual broadcasts
Link to Publicity Eligible still photographs from past rides and B-Roll
B-Roll of outdoor cycling from past rides in YouTube
WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2004, Texas 4000 is the longest annual charity bike ride in the world. Pedaling more than 4,000 miles, Texas 4000 is a journey that takes grit, determination, and support – that’s why we think of it as a metaphor for the fight against cancer.

Texas 4000 is a community of cancer fighters. We are comprised of student riders, volunteers and community supporters. All members of Texas 4000 are passionate about fighting cancer. Through fundraising, educating, and volunteering we strive to spread hope to those fighting cancer.

The Texas 4000 family also consists of those who support our cause, including our board of directors, sponsors and partners, countless host families, donors, and volunteers who help make the annual Texas 4000 ride from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska a reality every year.

OUR MISSION

Texas 4000 is dedicated to fighting cancer by sharing HOPE, KNOWLEDGE, and CHARITY. We cultivate the next generation to lead the fight against cancer through our cornerstone event, a more than 4,000 mile bike ride from Austin to Anchorage.

We share HOPE by letting those touched by cancer know that people like us are riding for them and are determined to eliminate the disease. We share KNOWLEDGE by bringing life-saving information about cancer prevention to communities large and small. We share CHARITY by making a commitment to support cancer research and lead the charge in overcoming cancer. Our goal is to ensure our fundraising dollars are donated to the most effective initiatives towards fighting cancer.

Over the past sixteen years, Texas 4000 has proudly raised more than $9.7 million for the fight against cancer.
THE TEXAS 4000 TEAM
COVERS 20 STATES AND 5 CANADIAN TERRITORIES

Major Cities on the Sierra Route:
Austin, TX
Lubbock, TX
Santa Fe, NM
Flagstaff, AZ
South Lake Tahoe, CA
San Francisco, CA
Portland, OR
Seattle, WA
Vancouver, BC
Anchorage, AK

Major Cities on the Rockies Route:
Austin, TX
Dallas, TX
Oklahoma City, OK
Colorado Springs, CO
Denver, CO
Calgary, AB
Vancouver, BC
Prince George, BC
Whitehorse, YT
Anchorage, AK

Major Cities on the Ozarks Route:
Houston, TX
New Orleans, LA
Memphis, TN
St. Louis, MO
Chicago, IL
Milwaukee, WI
Minneapolis, MN
Whitehorse, YT
Anchorage, AK
TEXAS 4000 FUN FACTS

THE RIDE IS OVER TWICE AS LONG AS THE TOUR DE FRANCE.

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 17th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS 4000 RIDE.

Each day the team members will dedicate their rides to different people in memory or honor of a cancer fighter. This year they will dedicate the ride to more than 4,000 people.

The riders will pedal at elevations ranging from 500 feet to 14,000 feet.

The team will consume more than 10,000 energy bars and more than 700 gallons of sports drink.

THE TEAM WILL MEET THOUSANDS OF CANCER SURVIVORS TO SPREAD THEIR MESSAGE OF HOPE, KNOWLEDGE, AND CHARITY.

At their highest latitude, the riders will pedal within 300 miles of the Arctic Circle.

To date, we have raised more than $9.7 million dollars in the fight against cancer. Proceeds support many programs, including cutting-edge cancer research initiatives at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Since inception, more than 800 team members have ridden more than 4.7 million miles.

The team rides for 70 days through rain, sleet, wind, snow, heat and any other weather imaginable. They will encounter an average of 15 thunderstorms and three hail storms.

THE TEAM WILL USE OVER 35 GALLONS OF SUNSCREEN.

The team will eat more than 5,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches throughout the ride.

The team changes an average of 5 flat tires each day.

The trip is more than 4,500 miles. This makes it the longest annual charity bike ride in the world.
ABOUT US

Scott Crews
Executive Director, Texas 4000

Scott Crews is the Executive Director of Texas 4000, joining the organization in January 2017. Prior to Texas 4000 for Cancer, he worked at Common Threads, a national nonprofit that teaches nutrition education and hands-on cooking to underserved children, serving as the Director of Partnerships & Engagement and a member of the senior leadership team. Scott has held multiple development positions with Make-A-Wish in Orlando, Florida, and Austin, Texas, where he worked for more than 13 years. In his previous positions, Scott oversaw corporate and individual giving, fundraising events, and boards in major cities to support the mission of those organizations.

Scott was born in Titusville, Florida, and received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida.

Ross McGarity
Program Manager, Texas 4000

Ross McGarity is the Program Manager for Texas 4000, overseeing all aspects of the students’ 18-month leadership development program, including their training year and summer ride experiences. Ross completed the ride in 2014, and prior to joining the Texas 4000 staff, he worked at Altera Corporation in San Jose, California and Intel Corporation in Dallas, Texas. Ross is passionate about the development of student leaders. Through his Texas 4000 ride experience, he learned much about leading from all angles, and wants to give back to young leaders, teaching them the importance of empowerment, accountability, and ownership as they prepare to take steps into the next stages of their lives.

Ross received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He is still an avid cyclist and enjoys participating in triathlons and other endurance races. In his free time, he enjoys camping, hiking, playing ultimate frisbee, and any other time spent outside.

Jonathan Christopher “Chris” Condit
Founder, Texas 4000

Chris Condit is the founder of Texas 4000. As a cancer survivor himself, Chris combined two of his passions — fighting cancer and outdoor adventure — to create Texas 4000 during his senior year at the University of Texas at Austin. Texas 4000 has grown into an influential nonprofit organization that annually fights cancer. Chris served as Executive Director for Texas 4000 from 2007-2009. Prior to serving as Executive Director, he worked as a research and development engineer with CardioSpectra, Inc. where he developed endoscopic laser imaging systems for minimally invasive diagnosis of cancer, heart disease and other infirmities. Chris currently works for Abbott as the Global Product Manager for Spinal and Deep Brain Stimulation Systems.

Condit holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and filed his first patent at age 23. Condit is married with two children, Raquel and Lucy, and enjoys biking, camping, and serving his church.
The following illustrates some of the Texas 4000 riders’ needs provided by in-kind sponsorships as well as various challenges the cyclists will face along their Austin to Alaska trek:

5,700 Gallons
Amount of gas six 15-passenger support vans will use. They will drive 9,500+ miles each.

460
Number of rest stops along the routes where riders need to replenish food and water and repair bikes.

5
Average number of flat tires the team changes each day.

The team rides for 70 days through rain, sleet, wind, snow, heat and any other weather imaginable. On average, they will encounter:

15 Thunderstorms
3 Hail storms
Wind gusts of up to 40 MPH
Temperatures ranging from Below zero to 115°

The team will spend approximately 30 nights camping, 16 nights in a gymnasium, 14 nights with host families, 9 nights in churches and only ONE night in a donated hotel room.

5,000
Number of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches the team will eat.

35 Gallons
Amount of sunscreen the team will use.

The team will consume 10,000 energy bars and drink more than 700 gallons of sport drink mix.