

No ride in the park

A group of Pi Kappa Phi brothers will pedal across the country to raise money for charity

Bree Sherry

Reporter

On June 15, four Pi Kappa Phi brothers will leave San Francisco, Calif., and ride their bikes to Washington, DC. The purpose of this 63-day cycling event across America is to raise awareness, funds and volunteers for people with disabilities.

Push America, the organization heading this massive project, was founded in 1977 by Pi Kappa Phi "with the purpose of instilling life long service in our fraternity members and serving people with disabilities," said Durward Owen, the former executive director of Pi Kappa Phi.

Journey of Hope is the largest event Push America sponsors, with 58 brothers, who reside in North Carolina, Washington, New Jersey, Illinois and Texas, to name a few, travelling almost 4,000 miles across the country annually. Five former brothers from Elon have participated in this charity event over the past three years.



Bree Sherry / Photographer

Bryan Scherich, Jon Williams, Brian O'Shea and Zachary Lauritzen will cycle across the country.

This year, Elon is represented by four brothers—Zachary Lauritzen, Brian O'Shea, Bryan Scherich and Jon Williams.

They will travel together for the first week of their trek and will later split up to take either the northern or southern route. The southern route includes riding through cities such as Las Vegas, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Dallas, Birmingham, Greenville, Atlanta, Charlotte, Greensboro and Manassas. Those traveling on the northern route will bike through Salt Lake City, Denver, Omaha, Des Moines, Milwaukee, Chicago, South Bend, Ann Arbor, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

"I am excited to ride across the country and really make a difference," Lauritzen said.

The men are currently training for this event at least twice a week. They ride between 20 and 30 miles each day to prepare themselves so they will be physically ready to handle riding up to 110 miles in a day this summer.

They also run and swim to build up their stamina.

"As cyclists, our goal is to raise \$5,000 each, but it is about so much more than money," Lauritzen said. "It's about the experience of doing something amazing. It's about making kids smile."

In total, these four students are planning on raising \$17,500 to add to the total project goal of \$600,000.

Ninety-eight percent of the proceeds will be used for programs and grants to benefit people with disabilities and spread awareness of these programs.

The brothers are still looking for donations. Later this year, they will be doing fundraising events with sororities and with SGA. "The staff and faculty that we've worked with have responded very positively," O'Shea said.

In addition to the 58 cyclists, there are 12 crew members who will help out along the trip, as well as two program managers for each route who have typically participated in the race the year prior to oversee everything.

"It was a huge decision for me to make. Not because of time but because I was not sure if I could physically do it. I thought about being a crew member, but then realized I wanted to give 100 percent. I want to be a messenger of hope, which is an amazing possibility," O'Shea said.

The Pi Kapp members' goal is to reach people and make them aware.

"The important thing is for people to know what we're doing. It's not just about the money but that every day we are committing ourselves to achieve our goal," Scherich said.

Contact Bree Sherry at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

JOB OPENING

Elon University Office of Admissions is accepting applications for the position of Admissions Counselor
Appointment effective June 2, 2003

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