

# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release:**

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## *St. Petersburg Times* Bike Tour Returns

**Dade City, FL** – After more than a decade's hiatus, the hugely popular *St. Petersburg Times* bike tour returns to east Pasco County on Sunday, March 13, 2005.

Registrations are being accepted now for the event which will be held at the Pasco-Hernando Community College Dade City campus, 36727 Blanton Road (Hwy 41 N.) in Dade City.

Three routes are featured for cyclists of all skill levels. There will be a 75-mile, 40-mile and 9-mile Family Fun Ride. The events begin at 8 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. respectively. In addition, there will be a child friendly bike safety rodeo, which also begins at 9 a.m. and will continue throughout the morning.

The bike routes will take riders through the beautiful rolling hills and countryside of east Pasco County, just 25 miles north of Tampa.

Proceeds from the event will support the Florida Police Unity Benefit Ride, which is raising funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The Police Unity Tour is a 3-day national memorial ride to honor the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers and provide assistance and support to families of officers killed in the line of duty. Invited as the only non-law enforcement participant in the Florida Ride will be Brenda Marrero, sister of slain Tampa PD officer, Lois Marrero. Ms. Marrero also will be a special guest at the *St. Petersburg Times* Bike Tour, along with other members of the Florida contingent of the Police Unity Tour.

Suncoast Epilepsy Services and Epilepsy Services of West Central Florida will be on site to donate and fit one hundred bicycle helmets for children and adults. The helmets and bike safety materials are provided through a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.

Registration is from \$8 to \$20 per person depending on the ride distance selected, and goes up to \$10-\$25 after February 28. Each participant will receive a T-shirt, goody bag and refreshments. There also will be door prizes. Participants can register on line at [sptimes.com/biketour](http://sptimes.com/biketour), at most local bike shops or the morning of the tour on site.

Sponsors of the event include the *St. Petersburg Times*, San Antonio Cyclery, Circle K Stores, Magic 94.9 FM and Smoothie King.

For more information visit [www.sptimes.com/biketour](http://www.sptimes.com/biketour) or call 727-893-8581.