

# EARLY BIRD RIDE 2024



## SAND RIDGE STATE FOREST

PO BOX 111  
FOREST CITY, IL 61532  
309-597-2212



Join us **APRIL 13** and **14, 2024** for this **NEW** Illinois ride. What better way to start your ride season than at this **OLD-FASHIONED PRIMITIVE** ride, so please come prepared. The trail is sandy and should be available to ride this time of year regardless of weather. You're sure to have a good time riding through this beautiful forest! All Holds in Camp.

For those who think central Illinois is one big corn field, Sand Ridge State Forest will come as a very pleasant surprise. The forest is an island in a sea of agriculture. Just minutes southwest of Peoria, this 7,200 acre, the largest of Illinois' State Forests, boasts sweeping expanses of native oak-hickory, extensive plantations of pine, sprawling open fields, grasslands, and completely unique sand prairies. For a refreshing, invigorating taste of unspoiled nature and an opportunity to experience a truly unique environment, Sand Ridge State Forest is ideal.

The area is the result of a prehistoric dry period when more than desert-like conditions existed. Today it remains one of the few places in Illinois that supports an intriguing variety of plants and animals more associated with southwest than midwest Those include badger, silvery bladderpod, pocket gopher and prickly pear cactus to name a few.

**FREE CAMPING!** Camping is primitive and will be at Mockernut Meadow, which has fire pads, tables and tethering posts.

Pre-registration deadline 4/1/24. \$20.00 late fee for registrations received after 4/1/24. Cancellation fee \$20.00

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

ENDURANCE 50 MILES

SR. \$120 JR. \$60

LD AND COMPETITIVE 25 MILES

SR. \$100 JR. \$50

NOVICE 12 MILES

\$60

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

ENDURANCE 50 MILES \*(must have 5 riders)

SR. \$120 JR. \$60

LD AND COMPETITIVE 25 MILES

SR. \$100 JR. \$50

NOVICE 12 MILES

\$60

*To encourage riders to ride both days, we are offering a **BOGO** 1/2 discount as follows. On the rider's second day of competition, the entry fee is 1/2 of the second day's fee! And the same goes for the horse, on the second day of competition the entry fee is 1/2 of the second day's fee. \*Additional \$20 fee for non-AERC Members*

Start times will be announced at the ride. No earlier than dawn. Check-in starts at 4:30 pm Friday or as soon as vet arrives.

**Required** for everyone's safety - Helmets for all riders, Coggins and/or Health Certificate for horses.

#### Ride management

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Online registration closes 4/8

Revised 1/15/24