



5 Boro Bike Tour Recap: Sunday May 1, 2022



The day begins early for Support Center's dedicated team of riders. That first wave at 7:30AM requires an early morning start getting your bike and gear loaded off for the start in NYC's financial district. Well that's the plan at least that Laura at Support Center has devised through carefully crafted emails and communications.

The SC team of Catalina Spinel, Jim Bergin, Keith Timko, Eyad Asad, Valentina Estevez, Zach Litif, Matt O'Dell, and Ariana Berdini is ready for the day (more or less) or in denial about the 40 miles ahead. Slowly members of the team begin to gather at La Columbe Coffee on Church and Lispenard Streets just south of Canal Street. First Catalina arrives. Keith and Jim then ride up followed by Eyad, Zach, and Valentina. Support Center riders come and go while other charity teams proceed in a tight formation. This isn't so much a team ride as a "loose affiliation" ride. It's not as though Laura hadn't properly organized the team.

Despite the inability to ride as a group and that Matt and Ariana rather slyly formed their own 9AM wave (nice call Matt and Ariana), May 1, 2022 will go down in the record books as one of those extraordinary Spring days where the temperature (high 60s), sunshine, and vibrant colors all worked together. Riding up 6th avenue and then through Central Park into Harlem and over to the Bronx, there is such joy and warmth and energy in this ride. You can forget that your legs are starting to burn, that you're breathing heavily, or that your bum is already starting to hurt.

For those choosing to sit this one out and cheer on the team of riders from home with donated miles, it's not all perfect. These bike seats are not exactly recliners, but for those willing to overcome the discomfort, there's a chance to see the enormous potholes of the FDR drive up close (holy smokes). There are vistas from the 59th Street bridge, waterfronts in Astoria and Brooklyn, and the borderline unimaginable experience of riding on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway and over the Verrazano Bridge.



The route for the 5 Boro Bike tour through all five of NYC's boros.

The tour ends at a finish festival at the Empire Outlets in Staten Island near the ferry terminal. The riders earn well-deserved and very fancy finisher medals and a beer and a meal upstairs at the Clinton Hall beer hall. While they could complain about long waits at the Staten Island ferry later that day or the amount of time it takes to park and then retrieve your bike, the reality is that it's more fun to reminisce about the gospel choir that they heard perform in Harlem on 125th Street or how amazing the blossoms were in Central Park.



So now that this recap is being published and Laura knows the truth of the team's discoordination, we can turn our attention to the fabulous donors who made this a fundraising success as well. And a few of you donors made multiple donations helping us to get over the finish line. Thank you, thank you, thank you for the support and your help to fund our miles and our work at Support Center.

Thanks to Support Center's 2022 5 Boro Bike Tour Sponsors!!

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- Eyad Asad*
- Ariana Berdini*
- Francisco Botero*
- Diana Breen*
- Carolyn Champ*
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