

Hello Bikers,

This letter is about fun stuff, bike stuff! There is important information for first-time Campers in it. There are explanations of the rides and rest stops in the Activity Book, which will be available online in mid-July. There is also a detailed description of each day's rides under the "Activities" tab on the DMFTC website. The rides are the same as last year, and yes, the Balmorhea pool is open, so we are going.

We will eat lunch, swim, float, relax, play pool games, and help load bikes on the trailer. See the Activity Book for more details. Please take your bike to your bike shop and have it tuned up before camp. Check that all gears and brakes are working well and check your tires. If they have cracks in the rubber or the sidewalls or fraying, it is time to replace them. Worn tires can blow out at any time and, there is only one bike shop in the area- 30 miles away in Alpine, so bring several extra tubes and patch kits. TXDOT often mows the roadsides right before we get there, and some bushes have thorns along the road. If they mow, we get lots of flats...The bike team offers a tire-changing clinic-check the schedule. Camp is at a high altitude, which means a very dry climate. It is a good idea to carry two water bottles on all rides. Helmets are mandatory anytime you are on your bike. There are planned water stops on the rides, but you do not want to run out. Also, there will be energy drink mix at most water stops and some snacks and bars. Be sure to bring along whatever energy supplements you need as well. We do not have organized mountain bike rides, but there will be several cyclists doing trail rides you can hook up with, if interested. Watch the whiteboard in the dining hall for any unofficial ride postings there. Also, it is often handy to have a mountain bike to get around the Ranch- getting to meals, talks, etc., but not necessary.