

LoveWay's 26th annual Ride-A-Thon to take place Sept. 26

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The coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc with many non-profits fundraising events these last few months. But not the 26th annual LoveWay Ride-A-Thon because horseback riders understand physical distancing.

Students at LoveWay Inc. are taught they should have enough space between their horse and the horse in front of them to fit an elephant.

This year's Ride-A-Thon will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, with riders leaving the LoveWay facility promptly at 9 a.m. Due to the pandemic there will be no pancake breakfast, but a small continental breakfast is included. Riders will also receive a boxed lunch after finishing the trail ride.

Riders take note, the trail has been extended this year. Ride-A-Thon will go through the Weather-wax Trail and then onto the Rieg-secker Trail.

And while most public events have had to have limited numbers of participants due to COVID-19 concerns, there is no limit to the number of riders who can participate in Ride-A-Thon this year. "The more the merrier," said Shelley Becker, executive director of LoveWay Inc.

Awards will be offered to the top adult and youth fundraiser as well as the runner-up adult and youth fundraiser.

"We're really encouraging people to register online so we don't violate our COVID regulations," Becker said. Riders will not be allowed in the LoveWay building during the Ride-A-Thon.

Those without computer access can call LoveWay at (574) 825-5666 to make an appointment to come in during regular office hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday to register online. Those coming to LoveWay to pre-register must wear a mask in the building. Registration will not be taken the day of the event.

Riders wanting to earn a T-shirt, door prize or grand prize ticket can fundraise over their registration fee. More information is available at www.lovewayinc.org or by calling the number above.

Check in for riders will take place outside, riders will receive their number and goody bags. The prize presentation will also be done outside. No stallions are allowed to participate, horses must be kept at a walk on LoveWay's grounds and safety equipment is strongly encouraged. LoveWay is a non-smoking facility.

LoveWay Inc. hopes to raise



HEADING OUT — The first wave of riders ride down LoveWay Inc's driveway to start the annual Ride-A-Thon. This year's event will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, and features an extended trail. All riders are encouraged to register online. File photo.

\$75,000 from the event. Funds from the event go to LoveWay's scholarship fund which ensures no child is turned away due to an inability to pay. Corporate sponsorships are still available. For more information call Becker at the number above.

Plans for Ride-A-Thon are subject to change due to the pandemic and COVID regulations.