

EARLY BIRD RIDE 2025



SAND RIDGE STATE FOREST

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



Join us **APRIL 12** and **13, 2025** for this Central 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 is 4/1/2025. \$20 late fee for registrations received after 4/1/2025. Cancellation fee \$20.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

ENDURANCE 50 MILES
LD AND COMPETITIVE 25 MILES
NOVICE 12.5 MILES

SR. \$125	JR. \$25
SR. \$100	JR. \$25
\$60	

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

ENDURANCE 50 MILES
LD AND COMPETITIVE 25 MILES
NOVICE 12.5 MILES

SR. \$125	JR. \$25
SR. \$100	JR. \$25
\$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 fee for non-AERC Members ** Does not apply to Novice*

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

Lucy Stafford
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Robin Schadt
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www.eridepay.com/earlybird

On line registration closes 4/8

Potluck dinner Saturday night

