

2021 Major Taylor Mountains Summit: SAG Driver Instructions

Day 1 (Orange Maps): Masters Viaduct Route (33 miles) and Hickory Nut Gap Excursion (53 miles)

Driver A:

1. From Blowing Rock, drive south on 221 for ~2 miles, then right onto BRP. Park right where this little access road intersects with the Parkway, and make sure that the Masters stay on the BRP here and the Hickory Nut riders exit the BRP and then take Shull's Mill Road towards Valle Crucis. They will come by here fast on the downhill....might want to make a sign! After the last rider has passed here....
2. Follow the Hickory Nut riders down Shull's Mill Road. Follow their route using the map, then setting up a SAG on NC 194 in Banner Elk just before NC 184 in the municipal parking lot on the left (at corner of Azalea and NC 194). After the last rider leaves Banner Elk...
3. Take NC 184 to NC 105, go right. In Linville, turn left onto NC 221 towards Grand Father Mountain State Park. Stop near the underpass at the Blue Ridge Parkway and set up a SAG stop. Head back to Blowing Rock on 221 after the last rider has passed.

Driver B:

1. Drive to the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway and little cloverleaf to Hollowell Mtn road. Set up a SAG stop for the Masters riders here. After the last Masters rider has left....
2. Follow the Masters Route (if you like) or take Hollowell Mountain Road south to NC 221, and set up another SAG stop near this intersection. Just arrive here before they do. Note there is no street sign for either street here, but it is a wide place in the road.
3. Stay here for the arrival of the riders on the Hickory Nut Gap route.

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Day 2 (Blue Maps): Masters Bamboo Ride (33 miles) and Big Bamboo Ride (58 miles)

Driver A:

1. Follow ride routes to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take BRP north to mile 12.9 on the map, to the connector road to Old NC 421. Set up a SAG Stop here. After the last rider has left this point....
2. Drive to the intersection of Winkler Creek Road and Russ Cornett Road in Boone (using whatever route you wish – but beware of traffic in downtown Boone). This is an easy turn to miss. Just after you turn on Russ Cornett Rd. from Winkler Creek, there is a small gravel area on the left. Park here, and then make sure all riders make this turn. After the last rider has made this turn safely...
3. Follow the map to the Blue Ridge Parkway, then take it going South (away from Blowing Rock). Pass the Linville Cove Viaduct, then take the off-ramp onto NC 221. Turn left on 221, then set up a SAG stop under the BRP. After the last rider has left, take the BRP (to follow the riders) or NC 221 back to Blowing Rock.

Driver B:

1. Let the riders get out ahead of you from Blowing Rock. Follow the course route, hopscotching the riders all the way to mile 12.9 on this course, where Driver A is setting up a SAG stop. Turn around....
2. Drive on the BRP back to the exit to Bamboo Road. This is ~3.5 miles. Follow the little access road, then right on Bamboo Road. Drive to the intersection of Deerfield Road (a left turn as you will see it). Make sure our riders don't miss this right turn (for them). After the last rider has left this point....
3. Take the BRP back to the intersection of NC 221 and Shull's Mill Road – a drive of about 9 miles. Go left on this little access road and in 100 feet or so there is an intersection with Shull's Mill Road. Set up a SAG stop here, perhaps on the little road up to the maintenance facility. After the last rider has left here....
4. Take the access road back to the BRP, then turn left (south). Drive the course backwards, checking on riders until you reach the last one. Return to Blowing Rock any way you wish.

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Day 3 (Green Maps): The Masters Valle Crucis Lollipop (37 miles) and the Trade Route (56 miles). Note that there is also an optional 79 mile Trade Route, and it will be important to know if any riders are doing this.

Driver A:

1. Leave Blowing Rock just ahead of any riders, and drive to the intersection of Old Shull's Mill Road and NC 105. There is a gravel area to park in here. Park and wait for the riders to arrive, then warn them in strong tones to be careful of traffic on the short ½ mile downhill to the river and their left turn onto Broadstone Road. There is a light there that might work in their favor, but traffic can be impatient and try to pass when they should not. There is a bikeable shoulder, and advise riders to use that until they reach their turn. Send them down in small groups if you can. After the last rider leaves....
2. Drive to the corner of Old NC 421 and Sherwood Road. Park here and then as riders go by tell them to stay on Old 421 for the Trade Route (long option), and turn right on Sherwood for the Masters Route. Might want to make a sign. After the last Master's rider makes this turn....
3. Follow the Masters route checking on riders, and drive to the corner of Broadstone Road and NC 105 – arriving there before they do. There is a gravel area on the left just before NC 105 for you to park and set up a SAG stop. Warn the riders again about being careful on the short climb up the hill on NC 105. Use the bikeable shoulder before they turn left on Old Shull's Mill Road. After the last Masters riders leaves this stop....
4. Ride the Trade Route backwards until you see our first riders – check to make sure all is well. Turn around and go back to Broadstone and NC 105 and repeat #3. After Driver B arrives to join you, stay there until the last rider leaves, then had back to Blowing Rock.

Driver B:

1. Leave sometime soon after last riders leave, and follow the route. Make sure you get to the Cove Creek Store at NC 321 and Old NC 421 before the first riders.

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There is a post office across from the store which would be a good SAG area to set up. ASK IF ANY RIDERS ARE DOING THE 79 MILE OPTION. THIS IS YOUR LAST RIDER(S) FOR THE NEXT SAG STOP YOU SET UP ON BULLDOG ROAD. After the all riders have left here....

2. Follow the course, and drive north on Old 421, left on NC 421 to Trade, TN on the map, then left on Bulldog Road and to the top of this surprisingly difficult climb. There is a gravel road on the left at the top of this climb. Stop here and set up a SAG Stop. After the last rider leaves your SAG Stop (this could include riders doing the 79 mile option).....
3. Follow the route checking on riders, and drive to the corner of Broadstone Road and NC 105. There is a gravel area on the left just before NC 105 for you to park and set up a SAG stop with Driver A. Head back to Blowing Rock after your last rider leaves.