

# 2026 Ready to Roll Guide

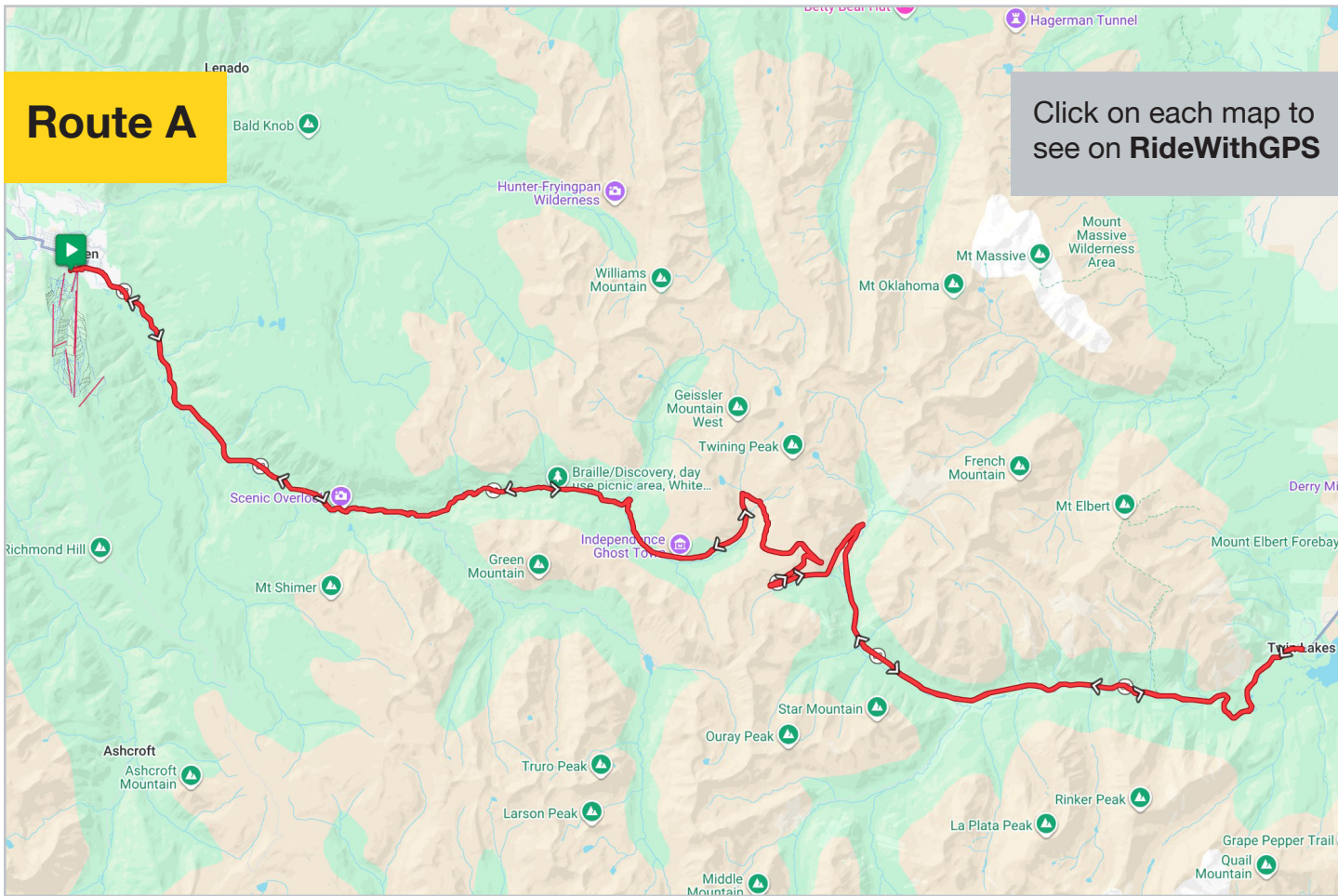
July 2 | Aspen, CO

**BEST BUDDIES  
CHALLENGE<sup>®</sup>  
ASPEN**

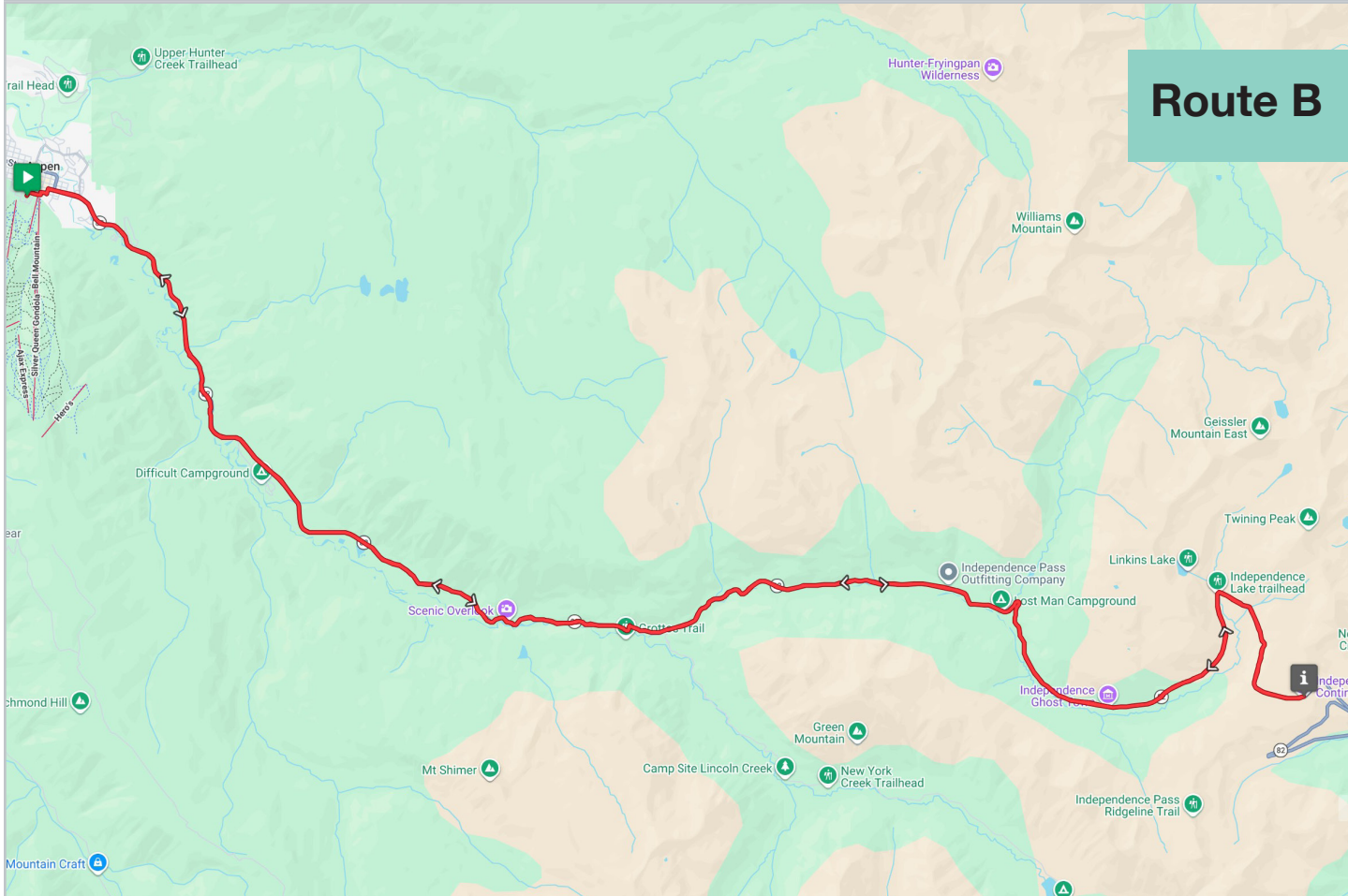


# Route A

Click on each map to see on **RideWithGPS**



# Route B





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# Welcome to the Challenge

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Welcome to the inaugural *Best Buddies Challenge: Aspen!* Your support helps create friendships, job opportunities, leadership development, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Every mile you ride and dollar you raise supports Best Buddies.

This guide has all the details, schedules, and locations you will need to know for the Challenge on July 2, 2026. Please take a few minutes to read this guide and email us at [Coach@bestbuddies.org](mailto:Coach@bestbuddies.org) with any questions. See you in the saddle!

# Mission Impact

**4,046**

Chapters

**154,354\***

Participants

**1,543,540**

Impacted

**50**

States

**41**

Countries



## One-To-One Friendship

**165**

Elementary School Chapters

**1,747**

High School Chapters

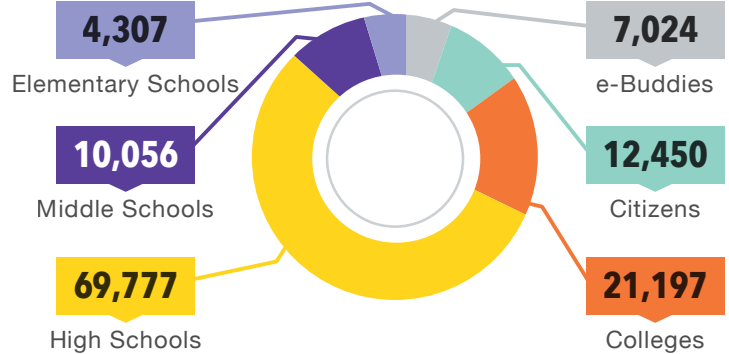
**468**

Middle School Chapters

**455**

College Chapters

### Program Participants



## Integrated Employment

**2,300**

Participants Employed

### Average Total Participant Stats

**44,160**

Weekly Hrs. Worked

**2,163,840**

Yearly Hrs. Worked

**\$6,911,305**

Yearly Taxes Paid

**\$34,556,525**

Yearly Wages Earned

Avg. hrs worked per week 19.20, Avg. hrly wage \$15.97 (in the U.S.).



## Leadership Development

**539**

Elementary Schools Promoters Chapters

**276**

Middle School Promoters Chapters

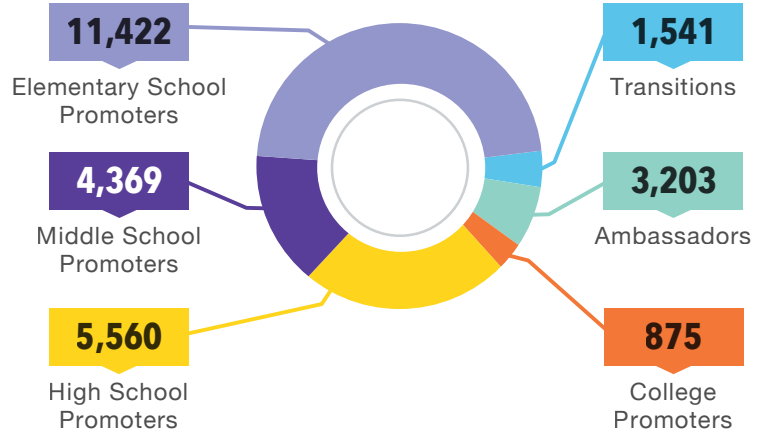
**336**

High School Promoters Chapters

**60**

College Promoters Chapters

### Program Participants



## Inclusive Living

**10**

Living Residences

**116**

Living Participants



## Family Support

**157**

Eunie's Buddies Participants

\*All program stats are as of 6/30/2025, and reflect the most recent Best Buddies program year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

# Schedule of Events

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## ***Best Buddies Aspen Gala***

The St. Regis Aspen Resort, 315 E Dean St, Aspen, CO 81611

**View Gala Website** [HERE](#)

**5:30 PM Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction**

**7:00 PM Dinner**

**7:30 PM Program Begins**



## **Event Day**

**Thursday, July 2, 2026**

***Best Buddies Challenge: Aspen***

## **Ride Start/Finish**

**The St. Regis Aspen Resort**

315 E Dean St, Aspen, CO 81611

**6:30 AM Check-in & breakfast opens**

**7:15 AM Riders report to staging**

Start Line opening ceremony program with general announcements & Rules of the Road.

**7:30 AM 74 and 40-mile ride starts**

A Post-Ride Lunch will be prepared and waiting for you upon return at the St. Regis.



## Rest Stop Locations

Our two Rest Stops will be ready for you to rest and refuel along the route. Each Rest Stop will be equipped with snacks, beverages, restrooms, bicycle mechanics, and medical aid.



### REST STOP 1 & 3

Independence Pass  
Continental Divide

**Located at mile 19.5 and mile 54.1**



### REST STOP 2

Twin Lakes Visitor Center

**Located at mile 36.8**



# Course Support



## Rider Support

Police officers, Best Buddies staff, and volunteers will be available to assist you throughout the course. Our team of Domestiques and Bicycle Medics will ride with you on the course wearing bright pink jerseys and/or red medic jerseys to provide immediate rider support on the road.



## Medical Assistance

There will be medical assistance throughout the entire course and at rest stops. If you need assistance while you are out on the course, please locate a Domestique or Bicycle Medic. If you have a serious injury or medical emergency, please call 911.



## SAG (Support and Gear) Team

Bringing up the rear on the cycling course will be an expert cyclist, a bike tech support vehicle, and a service truck. If for whatever reason you are not able to continue, the SAG Team will transport you and your bike to the next rest stop where you can board a shuttle to the Finish Line.

# Rules of The Road & Safety Guideines

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The Best Buddies Challenge organizers strive to conduct the ride in a safe way for all participants and courteous to all road users. Below are some general rules and regulations that all cyclists must follow. Please read these guidelines before you participate. All riders must adhere to the rules of the road as stated by the Colorado State Police (CSP) and the Colorado Department of Transportation.



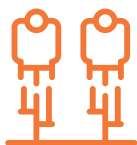
## 1. Helmets Required.

Helmets are mandatory to participate in the event. The Best Buddies Challenge does not provide helmets to participants.



## 2. Official Start Locations and Times.

Riders must start at the announced start times. Any rider who starts from an unofficial start area or before the start time will ride at their own risk without route support from State and Local Police or the staff. Such rides will not be covered under the Best Buddies Challenge ride insurance.



## 3. Ride Tight and Right.

Riders must ride no more than two abreast. In the absence of a bike lane, we advise riders to stay single file, especially on climbs and in heavy traffic, staying as far to the right as feasible. Aside from making a left turn, a rider should never cross the center line.



## 4. Listen to State and Local Police and Domestiques.

Riders must adhere to the guidance of State and Local Police and the Domestiques for instructions and warnings. They will be on the route supporting the ride.



## 5. SAG (Support and Gear).

Support and Gear (SAG) service will be on the course with experienced bike mechanics, on-bike medic personnel, and our Domestiques. The SAG system will transfer riders and bikes forward in the event a rider cannot continue. There will be a SAG shuttle service from each rest stop. A sweep van, designated by flashing yellow lights, will follow riders at the back of the course. Domestiques will also escort the slowest riders to ensure every rider finishes safely.



## 6. Carry a Pump and Spare.

Riders must carry a spare tube and a means of inflation.



## 7. **Headphones and Handheld Electronics Prohibited.**

Headphones will not be allowed. The use of handheld cameras, phones, and electronic devices while riding is prohibited.



## 8. **Signage.**

Every effort will be made to inform riders of hazardous road conditions with signage. Mileage markers will be placed at 10-mile intervals until the final 10 miles when they will be at every mile thereafter.



## 9. **Clothing and Equipment Drops.**

Riders may drop off clothing or equipment at any of the rest stops, using bags provided. Riders must mark the bag with their ride number and name. Lost and found will be at the at the Finish Line.



## 10. **Medical Plan.**

A complete Emergency Medical Plan is available to all support staff. If you need assistance on the course, please wait for a Domestique or Medical Aid to assist you. If you have a serious injury or medical emergency, please call 911.



## 11. **Communications.**

There will be staff radio communication along the route and in all SAG vehicles. Mobile phone service is not reliable throughout the course.



## 12. **Ride With Caution.**

The *Best Buddies Challenge: Aspen* is conducted under the special event guidelines set forth by the Colorado Department of Transportation. Please review their guidelines, which are included below. Riders are subject to state guidelines and rules pertaining to operating bicycles on open roads, unless directed otherwise by State and/or Local police.

# Rules of The Road Colorado

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- Bicycle riders are required to obey all traffic laws, yield right-of-way, and obey traffic signs.
- The roadway is NOT closed for the ride. You must stay to the right and not impede traffic. Be aware that drivers may not be aware of the ride.
- Law enforcement officers will assist with traffic flow but the overall responsibility for rider safety lies upon each participant. Obey all instructions from law enforcement.
- Use caution when passing other bicycle riders or going around obstacles. Do not dart into the path of passing vehicles.
- Ensure you utilize hand signals to make turns so drivers are aware of your intentions.
- You may be following the law, but remember drivers do not always obey the laws. Protect yourself by riding defensively and using caution, especially on higher volume roadways.
- Don't get lost in your riding, remember to keep scanning for hazards along the roadway.
- If you witness dangerous driving, report relevant information to law enforcement. Do not allow yourself to escalate the situation by engaging with the driver.

**\*\* If you do not obey the rules of the road, you are subject to removal from the ride and citations from police. We ask you to obey the laws to keep yourself and others safe, and make it an enjoyable event for all. \*\***

## References

Some relevant Colorado State Statutes include:

- 42-4-1412
- 42-4-1412.5
- 42-4-221

[codot.gov/programs/bikeped](https://codot.gov/programs/bikeped)



## Post Ride

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After you cross the Finish Line, enjoy a hot shower and professional massage. Then, join us at The St. Regis Aspen Resort for a gourmet luncheon hosted by Anthony K. Shriver. Participant amenities include a finish line medal, hot shower, and professional massage.

Cap off the evening at the [\*Best Buddies Aspen Gala and Champion of the Year\*](#) is a spectacular and impactful event benefitting Best Buddies' mission.

Limited to 400 attendees, including business leaders, philanthropists, community champions, and notable supporters, the Gala brings together an extraordinary group in support of Best Buddies' mission. Guests will enjoy a gourmet dinner, an inspiring program, lively entertainment, and a premier auction in celebration of friendship, inclusion, and opportunity.

The auction will feature various items, including once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, fine art, exclusive vacations, and sporting events.

Proceeds from the event will go directly to Best Buddies' mission of creating friendships, jobs, leadership development, inclusive living, and family support opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

# Meet The Pros

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Let's introduce you to who you'll be riding with at the Challenge!



**Leanda Cave**

 @leandacave

First woman in history to win both the IRONMAN and IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships in the same year (2012).

With an 18-year professional career representing Great Britain, she competed at the highest levels across Olympic, Half, and Full Ironman distances — earning global recognition by CNN as one of the fittest women in the world. Since retiring at the end of 2017, Leanda has shifted her focus to coaching, founding her own performance coaching business and represents Pinarello as an ambassador. Today, Cave works with athletes of all levels, helping them achieve their goals in triathlon, swimming, cycling, and running, while occasionally competing for fun or participating in events for charitable causes. Backed by decades of experience, she offers expert guidance in training, nutrition, and mindset — empowering others to unlock their full potential.



**Cam Wurf**

 @cjwurf

Cam Wurf was labeled the “world’s most versatile elite endurance athlete” by podcaster and wellness guru Rich Roll.

A native of Tasmania and longtime ambassador for Best Buddies, Wurf has achieved world-class status in three sports. Having competed in rowing at the 2004 Olympics, Wurf switched to cycling with immediate success. He earned a spot in the UCI World Tour in Europe and completed the Vuelta a España and Giro d’Italia. He then became one of the top triathletes in the world, setting the fastest bike time in two successive editions of Kona. Popular with fans and other riders, Wurf is referred to as the “Chief Motivation Officer” of every team he joins. For that, the INEOS Grenadiers recruited the Australian for both cycling and triathlon. Now 40, Wurf shocked not only pundits but also his fellow riders when he delivered a solid team ride in Paris-Roubaix, finished the grueling “Queen of the Classics”, and then laced up running shoes and ran a half marathon for training.

# Best Buddies Challenge Merchandise

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All registered riders receive a limited-edition [2026 Best Buddies Challenge: Aspen](#) kit. If you want to do even more to support Best Buddies and our mission while on the bike, purchase any of our custom Best Buddies kit pieces from our online shop at Mumu!



[See the full line of Best Buddies cycling merchandise by clicking HERE.](#)

All jerseys and bibs are produced in both men's and women's specific cuts.

Our kits are limited-edition, so if you see something you like that's out of stock, please reach out to [bbchallengemerch@bustbuddies.org](mailto:bbchallengemerch@bustbuddies.org)

A photograph of two cyclists riding away on a paved road through a mountainous landscape. The cyclist on the left is wearing a yellow jersey and black shorts, while the cyclist on the right is wearing a blue and black jersey and black shorts. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The image has a color gradient overlay, transitioning from orange on the left to blue on the right.

# Questions?

**Reach out to us!**

e-mail us at [Coach@bestbuddies.org](mailto:Coach@bestbuddies.org)  
and we'll be happy to assist you.

**BESTBUDDIESCHALLENGE.ORG**     