



Cyclists Ride 850 km from Toronto to NYC for Campfire Circle to Support Kids with Cancer or Serious Illness

TORONTO, September 5, 2024: On Wednesday, September 11, 63 cyclists will depart on [R2//NYC](#), a challenging five-day, 850-km journey from Toronto to New York City to raise critical funds for Campfire Circle. Cycling on average of 170 km a day and climbing 9,000 metres, the cyclists hope to raise \$650,000 to support year-round camp programs to kids with cancer or serious illness and their families.

Trevor Delaire is one of the cyclists participating for the first time. “We lost our beautiful daughter, Ainsley, to brain cancer at the age of seven,” says Delaire. “While Ainsley was too sick to attend camp, Campfire Circle was instrumental in helping our son, Spencer, cope through its bereaved siblings' program. We’ve had a special connection to camp ever since, and that’s why I’m challenging myself to ride this year.”

A paediatric orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Simon Kelley is another first-time R2//NYC rider. In his role, Dr. Kelley provides complex surgical limb reconstruction to children with cancer and other medical conditions. “I see first-hand the devastating impact that serious illness has on a child's health, well-being, and social development and the challenges children and their families face when undergoing lengthy treatments. Campfire Circle brings much-needed joy to kids with cancer or serious illness and their families, and I am riding to support this organization as much as I can.”

Since 2018, R2//NYC riders have cycled a scenic yet grueling route across Ontario, New York State, and Pennsylvania, climbing a distance equivalent to Mount Everest. The ride culminates in an epic finish in New York City’s Times Square where cyclists are greeted by family, friends, and supporters.

"We're so grateful for the support of R2//NYC cyclists who are helping to deliver healing through happiness to kids and families across Ontario," says Alex Robertson, CEO, Campfire Circle. "These funds help fuel our play-based programs at four paediatric hospitals, in communities across the province, and at our two medically supported overnight campsites. Because of these riders, we are able to provide more programs that improve kids' overall well-being, help them build resiliency, and develop life-long friendships."

Riders come from various communities across Ontario, including Toronto, London, Kitchener/Waterloo, Huntsville, and Ottawa, all united in their goal to ensure that even the most medically fragile children can attend camp, all at no cost to families.

The R2//NYC journey begins with an official Rider Send Off event on **Wednesday, September 11**, at the Campfire Circle office in Toronto (**464 Bathurst Street**). The event is scheduled from **7:45–9:00**

a.m., with remarks around 8:15 a.m., followed by riders assembling in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m., and departing at 8:45 a.m.

To donate or learn more about R2//NYC, visit <https://support.campfirecircle.org/r2nyc/> or follow [@ride2newyorkcity](#) on Instagram.

R2//NYC Backgrounder:

R2//NYC (or Ride to New York City) is an 850 km charity cycling ride from Toronto to New York City raising funds for Campfire Circle, a charity that brings healing through happiness to kids with cancer or serious illness and their families. This five-day supported ride starts in Toronto on Sept 11, 2024 and culminates in a memorable finish at Times Square in NYC on Sept 15, 2024. There will be 50 riders cycling approximately 170 km a day, and over the five days they will ride an elevation of 9,000 metres, equivalent to summiting Mt Everest with an additional 13 riders partaking in the first two days of the ride. To date, R2//NYC has raised over \$600,000, which will provide 240 weeks of camp programs to kids who need us most. Campfire Circle provides life-changing, medically supported programs for kids with cancer or serious illness and their families. We offer programs in Ontario's leading paediatric hospitals, in communities around the province, and at our two medically supported overnight camps.

Some more context about Campfire Circle:

Since 1983, Campfire Circle (formerly Camp Ooch & Camp Trillium) has provided healing through happiness by providing camp-inspired programs to kids with cancer or serious illness and their families. Programs are delivered in hospitals across Ontario, at community events and at overnight camps. At no cost to families, these programs help improve overall well-being, build self-confidence and resiliency, and provide much-needed connection with others who share a similar journey.

To learn more, visit CampfireCircle.org.

To donate to a rider, visit r2nyc.ca.

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