



## NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contacts:** Robin Dropkin  
518-434-1583  
rdropkin@ptny.org  
www.ptny.org

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**Media Contacts:**  
**Robin Dropkin – Executive Director**  
**Office (518) 434-1583**  
**cell: (518) 929-5043**  
**Al Hastings – Ride Director**  
**(607) 423-2769**  
[HUDSONTOUR@PTNY.ORG](mailto:HUDSONTOUR@PTNY.ORG)  
[WWW.PTNY.ORG/HUDSONTOUR](http://WWW.PTNY.ORG/HUDSONTOUR)

### **MEDIA ADVISORY - Great Hudson Valley Pedal six-day bicycle tour**

#### **150 cyclists take six-day tour through Hudson Valley —6<sup>th</sup> annual Great Hudson Valley Pedal tour starts August 11 in Albany—**

ALBANY, N.Y. – Some 175 bicyclists from 25 states and Canada are participating in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual *Great Hudson Valley Pedal* event, organized by Parks & Trails New York, a statewide not-for-profit organization. The 200-mile bicycle tour ends on Sunday, August 15 in New York City.

“The *Great Hudson Valley Pedal* is a fun and exciting event, with five fabulous bridge crossings over the Hudson River, including the Walkway over the Hudson State Historic Park,” says Robin Dropkin, Executive Director of Parks & Trails New York. “We have riders spanning ages 8 to 86, plus many volunteers in communities along the route ready to welcome riders and help them discover what makes the Hudson Valley region so unique.”

On the first day of the tour, participants will ride from Albany to Hudson. Some of the day’s highlights include pedaling through downtown Albany and historic riverfront villages, the spectacular panoramic view from the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, and a visit to Olana, home of Hudson River School painter Frederick Law Church. The day’s itinerary also includes two rest stops, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, at riverfront parks, where cyclists will have an opportunity to sit, relax, and take in the scenery. After a full day of cycling, participants will take a sunset boat ride on the Hudson River from the City of Hudson dock.

Cyclists will leave Columbia-Greene Community College, location of the first night’s “tent city,” early on the morning of Wednesday, August 11, to pedal to Hyde Park, where they will have an opportunity to visit the Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites. Along the way, cyclists will enjoy pastoral landscapes and vineyards and may choose to stop at several historic sites, including Montgomery Place, Wilderstein, and Staatsburgh State Historic Site (formerly Mills Mansion).

The Regina Coeli School in Hyde Park is the location of the “tent city” on August 11 and August 12. Thursday, August 12 is a stopover day. Cyclists can either enjoy the many attractions in Hyde Park or take an optional loop bicycle ride to visit historic New Paltz and award-winning wineries on the west side of the River.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area are the premier sponsors of the *Great Hudson Valley Pedal*. Con Edison is the Champion Corporate Sponsor. Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation and I Love NY are the Supporting Hudson Valley Sponsors.

Parks & Trails New York is a statewide not-for-profit organization working to create a network of parks, trails and open space across the state for all to use and enjoy. Funds raised will help support Parks & Trails New York’s park and trail programs.

The Albany to Hyde Park schedule is as follows:

**Monday, August 9 – Albany**

**Overnight: Sage College of Albany, 140 New Scotland Ave, Albany**

**3:00pm – 5:00pm** – Registration at Sage College

**5:00pm – 7:00pm** – Opening Reception

**6:30pm** – Welcome and Orientation at Sage College

**Tuesday, August 10 – Albany to Hudson**

**Overnight: Columbia-Greene Community College, 4400 Rt. 23, Hudson**

**6:00am– 7:15am** – Breakfast – Sage Cafeteria

**7:45am – 8:00am** – Kick-off Ceremony – Group start with police escort through Albany.

**8:00am – 12:00pm** – Morning Rest Stop: Henry Hudson River Park in Bethlehem

**12:00pm – 5:00pm** - Afternoon Rest Stop: Village of Athens River Park – Optional visit to Cedar Grove

**2:00pm – 6:00pm** – Shuttle to Downtown Hudson and Olana

**5:00pm – 6:30pm** – Dinner – Columbia-Greene

**6:30pm** – Board Bus for Cruise

**7:00pm – 8:30pm** – Hudson River Sunset Cruise

**8:30** – Ride back to Columbia-Greene

**Wednesday, August 11 – Hudson to Hyde Park**

**Overnight: Regina Coeli School, 4337 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park**

**6:30am– 8:00am** – Breakfast at Columbia-Greene

**8:00am – 12:00pm** –Rest Stop at Gigi Market

**1:00pm – 5:00pm** – Visits to Hyde Park Historic Sites: FDR, Valkill, Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, Locust Grove

**5:00pm – 7:00pm** – Dinner at School

**7:00pm – 9:00pm** – Music at Campsite

**Thursday, August 12–Hyde Park Layover**

**Overnight: Regina Coeli School, 4337 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park**

**6:30am– 8:00am** – Breakfast at Regina Coeli School

**Two options:**

**1) Loop bike ride:** ride to visit New Paltz or Locust Grove

**2) Visits to Hyde Park Historic Sites:** FDR, Valkill, Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, Locust Grove

**5:00pm – 9:00pm** – Shuttle to area restaurants, including Culinary Institute of America

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