



# COURSE CYCLISTS VOLUNTEER GUIDE 2026

## SOUL RYEDERS Half Marathon & 5K

7:30AM Sunday, May 17, 2026 at Playland Park, Rye, NY

***PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY SO THAT YOU'RE  
READY FOR A GREAT DAY WITH US!***

### OVERVIEW

This event is staged at Playland Park in Rye, NY. The course encompasses parts of the park, most of the course is outside the Playland Park environs within Rye and Port Chester. The Half Marathon begins at 7:30am with the 5k beginning at approximately 7:45am. We are anticipating more than 1500 participants in the two events.

[SOUL RYEDERS](#) has been organizing this event since 2023. We bring in many partners to ensure the event runs smoothly and is safe for all participants and volunteers. Our 230 plus volunteers assisting with packet pick-up, course operations, parking, and general venue management are critical to the event's success.

SOUL RYEDERS is committed to providing a space for all genders, races, abilities, ages, and backgrounds. We are focused on the health and well-being of all our participants to come together for a day to achieve our individual goals and create a connected community of awareness and honor those affected by cancer.

We appreciate your support on race day as an ambassador of SOUL RYEDERS. In all volunteer positions, you will be among participants and spectators. We hope everyone will enjoy the race weekend, although occasionally someone will have a concern or issue about the event. Please thank them for letting you know about their concern and direct them to Heidi Kitlas, our Executive Director. Her email is [heidi@soulryeders.org](mailto:heidi@soulryeders.org) and cell phone is 646-379-1213.

***THANK YOU FOR STEPPING FORWARD TO HELP US BRING THIS RACE TO  
LIFE! YOUR TIME IS GREATLY APPRECIATED***

## CYCLIST CHECK-IN (to get your orange safety shirt)

**Sunday, May 17th 6:45am Playland Park Main Parking Lot:** If you live close enough, we encourage you to bike. All volunteers should use the Playland main parking lot.

Head to Volunteer Check-In to receive your volunteer t-shirt and assignment. **Please wear your t-shirt for the duration of your shift so you are officially recognized as a SOUL RYEDERS race volunteer.**

## COURSE CYCLISTS: Volunteer Role

**\*\*PLEASE KNOW/STUDY THE COURSE IN ADVANCE\*\***

Coordinator: **David Newman**

Cell: **(518) 944-9267**

Arrival Time: 7:00am

Location: Start / Finish Area (Main Parking Lot). Look for Josh Merlis on bike.

[Half Marathon Course](#)

[5K Course](#)

The course cyclists will be riding at a variety of paces with differing purposes. Below are the different roles a cyclist may be assigned:

### LEAD BIKERS

Your assignment indicates which group you will lead out from the start line. You've been assigned to either:

1. "PRE-Race Lead" → (provided by ARE staff) will start 45 seconds before the race and maintain that lead (12MPH), to alert course staff that the race is "less than 1 minute behind you" - if you encounter any issue (ie., a car in the way, etc) - **STOP BIKING** and do your best to address the issues (serve as a course marshal)
2. HALF: 4 cyclists (2 for leads [they drop back as the front pack breaks apart], 1 float, 1 sweep)
3. 5K: 2 cyclists (1 for lead, 1 for back-of-the pack) → and these 2 cyclists then assist with the 13.1 course after completion.

LEAD BIKERS: Do **NOT** pace any runners. Maintain a lead **in front** of them (at least 30')

### FLOAT BIKERS

All lead bikers become floats. Some of you start as floats. This means to simply go *back and forth* on the course, begin a roving 'course marshal' who should assist a runner in need. If someone is injured or needs assistance, contact our command center (Colleen O'Reilly (518) 892-3175)

### SWEEP BIKERS / BACK OF THE PACK:

1. Keep an eye on last place / back of the pack. Assist if requested.
2. **Notify all course staff that you are in last - participants are done.**

## **AREEP COURSE SUPPORT**

**Name: David Newman Cell: (518) 944-9267**

The person riding in last place will let you know when you are done. Once done, course marshals can return to the finish line to return their flag and vest and visit Volunteer Hospitality for a snack.

The **finish** cut-off is advertised as 11:00am.

The cut-off pace exists with respect to our event permits and associated timelines. It also provides a defined end-time at which event staff can plan to be done with their roles. On race day, enforcement will be managed by our sweep cyclist who will ask participants falling behind pace to either get on a sidewalk or get a ride from course support to return to the Playland Park start/finish area.

**Please be delicate.** Cut-offs are an unfortunate necessity - and while it is our hope that all participants are well aware of them - even still - it can make for an uncomfortable situation for everyone - not all participants are willing to adhere to these rules / requests when it affects them.

### **IF SOMEONE WILL NOT STOP**

The coordinator is to respectfully inform them that all course support is being removed in conjunction with this cut-off time and that they are not to continue. If the person chooses to continue, they do so at their own risk.

## **VOLUNTEER AND STAFF CHECK-IN SYSTEM**

To view your assigned task(s) for the event, please check-in on your mobile device. You can also click on the link in the email you were sent from ZippyReg.

Please read these 7 steps and do them NOW:

- Click here to get to Volunteer Check-In
- Click the green 'Login Here' button at the top of the page
- Enter your phone number (digits only) and hit 'Submit'
- You will see your volunteer role(s)
- If you have an assignment that is on the course, you will see a button with the location number. Click that button to zoom in on your location. Then click on your location to see if there are additional instructions/details.
- Click on the green 'Check-In' button when you are at your assigned location. If you accidentally click it, you have an UNDO option.
- At the top of the page, click the TIMELINE button to see a list of all the course locations and the anticipated time of day when the first runner and last runner will reach those locations.

**AT THIS TIME, PLEASE VISIT THAT LINK AND CHECK-IN FOR ALL YOUR ASSIGNMENTS.**

THIS IS HOW WE WILL VERIFY YOU'VE TEST THIS BEFORE RACE DAY. WE WILL CLEAR OUT ALL THESE TEST CHECK-INS ON RACE MORNING.

[Click here for screenshot directions](#)

**SOUL RYEDERS**  
**HALF MARATHON & 5K**



- 5K Route
- Half Marathon Route
- Water Station
- Port-a-Potty Location
- Turns
- Mile Marker





# SOUL RYEDERS HALF MARATHON & 5K



# PARKING PASS

# MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2026