



10 Tips for the Mt. Lemmon Hill Climb

By the Pima County Bike and Pedestrian Program

The Pima County Bike and Pedestrian Program is working in support of one of the most successful and popular bike rides in southern Arizona, the GABA Mt. Lemmon Hill Climb. The goal is to improve enjoyment of the event and sharing of the roadway. In partnership with area cyclists and the event sponsor, let's all do our part to ensure a fun and memorable ride.

1. **Riders should separate into groups of 5 to 10 riders maximum as they embark on the ride.** There will be natural groupings and regroupings as the ride progresses, but smaller groups are most helpful in facilitating passing by drivers and facilitating either passing or being passed by other cyclists on the way up the mountain.
2. Smaller groups or riding solo can facilitate two-way traffic on the mountain. At times, larger groups, where some cyclists may ride to the left of the white edge line, can result in an uphill-bound vehicle passing to the left of the centerline while another vehicle or cyclist may be coming down the mountain. This is particularly challenging in areas where the sight distance is limited, including on the multiple tighter curves on the mountain. Technically drivers should not be passing across the centerline on most of the mountain, where it's typically a double yellow line, but it may occur.
3. **When climbing and passing other cyclists and pedestrians, please be sure to do a shoulder scan and either signal or yield as necessary to overtaking traffic.** Many people use mirrors, which can be helpful, but a mirror can tell you "no, don't pass" (because a vehicle is overtaking) but it won't necessarily tell you "yes, you can pass" (because of the blind spot).
4. Please ensure when using mirrors that you maintain your main focus on the roadway ahead of you for debris, cracks, glass, and other concerns. This is especially important when coming back down the mountain, and can be a key issue for safety.
5. Be especially aware of motorcycles heading up and down the mountain at higher rates of speed. The Sheriff's Department may be monitoring speeds and providing enforcement as necessary on the day of the event as well as on other days before and after the event.

6. The Sheriff's Department has been periodically monitoring stop sign compliance on the route to Mt. Lemmon, in particular at the intersection of Snyder Road and Catalina Highway. Please be cognizant of stop sign compliance when heading out to climb Mt. Lemmon as well as when heading back to McDonald Park.
7. When descending, cyclists may take the lane as necessary in order to safely descend the mountain. Many good riders can maintain an average speed down the mountain that's very close to the speed limit. However, if five or more vehicles are travelling behind the cyclist and he or she is going substantially less than the speed limit, please pull off in a designated pullout or safe place to pull out in order to allow the following vehicles to pass.
8. When climbing or descending, please don't stop in the paved shoulder unless it's a particularly wide spot in order to allow other cyclists to pass safely. Not only is it safer and more courteous for other riders, but it's safer for the cyclist especially in curves where some drivers may tend to travel over the white edge line.
9. At the designated rest stops and aid stations, please be very aware and careful of passing traffic (including bikes) when pulling back out into the roadway.
10. A shoulder sweeping request to the Pima County Operations and Maintenance Division will be submitted for completion the week of the event. If there are any particular areas of concern for maintenance, including crack sealing or pothole repair, please contact the Operations and Maintenance group at 724-2639 to report the condition at least a week prior to the event.

Again, the Pima County Bike and Pedestrian Program is very happy to be assisting with the GABA Mt. Lemmon Hill Climb in what small way that we can and we wish you all an excellent and memorable ride!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Zoll', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Zoll, M.Sc., AICP

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