Charleston

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Volunteers Needed for USA Cycling Event CVB Announces Astorg Auto and WOWK-TV as Volunteer Program Sponsors

Charleston, W.Va. –The Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau today announced that Astorg Auto/Land Rover and WOWK-TV are cosponsoring the USA Cycling Pro Road National Championships Volunteer Program. The Pro Road National Championships presented by Spilman Thomas & Battle are scheduled for May 19-26, 2025. This year's event is expanded to include the debut of the Under-23 (U23) Women's Road Race as a standalone event and the addition of Para-cycling. The Para-cycling discipline includes athletes with visual or physical impairments who compete on bicycles, tricycles, and handcycles.

Last year, hundreds of volunteers dedicated 2,400 hours of service to marshal the race. Because of the expansion of the race to eight days, volunteers are in even more demand for 2025. Course marshals monitor crowds along race routes to reduce risks to cyclists, provide rapid communication regarding hazards or incidents, manage and protect spectators by acting as a crossing guard, act as an ambassador to spectators regarding event details, and cheer on cyclists as they compete.

- Volunteers receive a whistle and a branded volunteer shirt.
- All shifts are provided with a meal and water.
- All shifts are outdoors. It is recommended volunteers bring a lawn chair, sun and rain protection, and additional water or beverages.

The 2024 USA Cycling Pro Road National Championships made a significant impact on the city. The inaugural event generated an estimated \$4.6 million economic impact. Visitor spending was up 22% and the city hosted 2,794 overnight guests.

Four-hundred, thirty-five athletes from 46 states competed. Kristen Faulkner, the winner of Charleston's 2024 Elite/U23 Road Race, earned two gold medals at the Olympic Games in Paris.

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In September 2024, the USA Cycling Pro Road National Championships Volunteers and the Charleston Community were awarded the 2024 Spirit of West Virginia Award at the Governor's Conference on Tourism.

Race dates and start times are as follows:

- Monday, May 19, 2025: Para-cycling Road Race
 - All Categories, 9 am
- Tuesday, May 20, 2025: Time Trials
 - Para All Categories, Women Junior, and Men Junior, 9 am
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025: Time Trials
 - Women U23, Women Elite, Men U23, and Men Elite, 8 am
- Thursday, May 22, 2025: Criterium
 - Women Junior, 6:30 pm
 - Men Junior, 7:30 pm
 - Women U23, 8:45 pm
 - Men U23, 9:50 pm
- Friday, May 23, 2025: Criterium
 - Para Handcycle Relay, 6:30 pm
 - Women Elite, 7:45 pm
 - Men Elite, 9:15 pm
- Saturday, May 24, 2025: Road Race
 - Women U23, 9 am
 - Men U23, 1 pm
- Sunday, May 25, 2025: Road Race
 - Men Junior, 8 am
 - Women Junior, 12:30 pm
- Monday, May 26, 2025: Road Race
 - o Elite Women, 8 am
 - Elite Men, 1 pm

<u>Click here</u> to volunteer for the Astorg Auto/Land Rover and WOWK-TV USA Cycling Volunteer Program.

For more information on the USA Cycling Pro Road National Championships presented by Spilman Thomas & Battle, visit <u>charlestonwv.com</u>.