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17th Anniversary Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America Background and Overview

Seventeen years ago, NASCAR driver Kyle Petty combined his passion for helping others with his love of motorcycles to create the Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America. The annual trek raises funds for charities that support chronically ill children, engaging celebrities, ride sponsors, motorcycle enthusiasts and fans. Since 1995, more than 6,850 riders have logged 9.8 million cumulative motorcycle miles and donated more than \$14 million to Victory Junction and other charities that support chronically ill children.

The inspiration for the Ride came in 1994, when Kyle and four friends rode their motorcycles from North Carolina to a NASCAR race at Phoenix International Raceway. Along the way, friends joined the ride, and by the time the group reached Phoenix, it included 30 riders. The turnout inspired Kyle and he decided to nurture the event into something bigger. The Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America was born.

For the last seven years, Victory Junction has been the Ride's primary beneficiary. The camp was founded by Kyle and his wife, Pattie, to honor their son Adam, who was killed on the racetrack in 2000. Located on 84 acres in Randleman, N.C., the camp opened its doors in 2004 to enrich the lives of children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses by creating camping experiences that are memorable, fun, empowering, physically safe and medically sound.

To serve the needs of the Midwest, Victory Junction has plans to build a second medical camping facility in Kansas City, Kan. A ceremonial groundbreaking at the new facility took place in May of 2009, during the Kyle Petty Charity Ride's visit to Kansas City.

This year, Kyle will lead a field of approximately 175 riders as they make their way down the East Coast from Lake Placid, N.Y. to Amelia Island, Fla. from May 7-14. As a result of the Ride, more than 7,200 children have attended Victory Junction at no charge.

Fans and spectators along the Charity Ride route may contribute through the Charity Ride's "Small Change. Big Impact." program, which accepts donations at pit stop locations. Fans may also follow Petty and the riders on several social media pages, including [facebook.com/kpcharityride](https://www.facebook.com/kpcharityride), twitter.com/kpcharityride, and twitter.com/kylepetty.

For more information about the 2011 Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America or to make a contribution, visit www.kylepettycharityride.com.