



## **Association of Horizon**

*Empowering and enriching the lives of adults with physical disabilities*  
[www.AssociationofHorizon.org](http://www.AssociationofHorizon.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **A Hundred Mile Bike Ride to the ‘Best Week of the Year’**

CHICAGOLAND, IL – This July, five dedicated individuals will begin a bike ride of over a hundred miles to a week-long summer camp, hosted by the Association of Horizon, which makes every mile worth the ride.

Every year the Association of Horizon holds a summer camp for adults with and without physical disabilities for a week of fun, activities, and memories that will last a lifetime. With camp less than one month away, these five individuals: Donnie Flynn, Maeghan Anderson, Plamen Chakov, Jeff Pickert, and Viki Peer, wanted to show their love and appreciation for their camp by engaging in an activity they all equally enjoy, biking.

The bike ride will be approximately 120 miles from Oak Forest, IL to Hudson, IL running mostly along Historic Route 66. Each biker has a fundraising goal of 1,000 dollars that goes directly to the nonprofit organization, Association of Horizon, to help fund their annual summer camp.

Out of the five bikers, four of them began volunteering with Horizon when they were just 16 years old, Horizon’s minimum age requirement. Horizon often recruits volunteers through presentations at select Chicago Public Schools which require over a hundred service hours from students. By attending one week of camp, Horizon offers 144 service hours to those who request it. Though these four bikers started off attending camp merely to meet their school’s service hours requirement, little did they know, they would continue to volunteer for the next fifteen years. Now they start a grueling bike ride while anticipating the next seven days that will follow their journey.

Longtime volunteer and now Board Member, Viki Peer says, “Although I don’t live in Illinois these days, I always come back for camp because the inclusive environment that this camp creates is truly incredible. It’s seriously the best!” Peer moved to Arizona where she is obtaining her PhD and travels back to Illinois to attend Horizon Camp. This year she will be flying back a couple days earlier to join her fellow bikers on their journey to camp.

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At Horizon Camp, every camper with a physical disability is paired up one-on-one with an able-bodied volunteer who can be there for their camper if they are in need of physical assistance in any instance such as getting dressed, showering, eating, and during activities. All of the activities are adapted to allow any individual of any ability to participate. Some of the activities Horizon summer camp has are swimming, cycling, ziplining, hockey, and more.

Horizon summer camp is free of charge for all attendees with roughly 250 people consisting of a little over 100 campers and approximately 140 volunteers. These volunteers are made up of one-on-one attendants, cabin leaders who assist with camper care, a support team which helps with supplies, cabin issues, and activities, and a health team which are on-call the entire week for medical support and passing out medication as necessary.

The campsite, Timber Pointe Outdoor Center, is a beautiful 160-acre facility with approximately 20 cabins designed to offer adaptive activities as well as equipment to meet camper's needs.

For more information on the Association of Horizon, We Ride, or would like to donate to one of the riders, please visit [www.we-ride.org](http://www.we-ride.org)

### **About Association of Horizon, Inc.**

The Association of Horizon was established in 1991 and held their first summer camp in 1992. A small group of individuals got together and fundraised through close friends and family to be able to have a week of transcended barriers through adaptive recreational activities and enriching the lives of individuals with physical disabilities. Starting with just 20 campers, Horizon summer camp now hosts up to 115 campers as of 2019 and continues to grow.

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