

E-Blast 5

2022 THREE FLAGS CLASSIC



Hello 2022 Three Flag Participants –

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK (Also known as Estes Park)

Our route takes us through Rocky Mountain National Park on Hwy 36 and Hwy 34 in Colorado. This is a very scenic part of the ride and worth riding. The entry gate to the Park is about 1.25 hours northwest of Longmont, CO, after Checkpoint #2.

The National Park Service has instituted a reservation system for most National Parks in the US, but I got some great information today. For this Park the reservation requirements are for people entering from 9 AM - 3 PM, 7 days a week. Also, if you were to make a reservation you would need to know the approximate time you are entering the Park. This is NOT practical for our ride. People start lining up about 8 AM for 9 AM reservations.

Here is the great news. The entry station is open 24 hrs. a day. If you get there early enough there may not be a Ranger manning the booth and it's perfectly fine to enter for free if no one is there, AND without a reservation. It normally costs \$25 on a motorcycle. So, if you get there at about 7:30 AM, there may be a Ranger there and you would have to pay \$25, but you can get in. If you get there at 6:30 AM or 7:00 AM (or before), the entry station may not be manned and you can go in for free! I asked when the entry station person gets there in the morning and he laughed, saying that's top secret, (then I laughed).

So my suggestion is this. Get there early and not between 8 AM and 3 PM. I'd suggest between 4:30 and 6:55 AM. If you are not planning on staying overnight in Longmont and continue going forward after the checkpoint, go through the Park later in the day, say after dinner. I'm told it's about a 2-hour drive including taking a photo or two to get to the other side of the Park.

This was a concern, but it appears we will not have to change the route, just make people aware of the Park hours and how to bypass the reservation system. Of course, this being the US Federal Govt. anything can change at any time, so have a flexible (alternative) plan.

ARRIVECAN

Because you have read prior Three Flag Classic E-Blasts you know that Canada requires a vaccine, and you have to download information to the ArriveCan app. You'll need your vaccine card and passport to get your registration downloaded.

What you need to know is this cannot be done until 72 hours before you enter Canada. This time frame may change between now and the ride, but know that based on the speed you plan on riding you'll likely need to do this between Longmont, Co and the Canadian border. Make sure you bring your vaccine card and passport. During my last trip to Canada in May 2022 they did not ask for the vaccine card, but make sure you carry it.

E-BLASTS

It is my recommendation you print off all E-Blasts that have been produced and review them prior to heading to Mexicali, Mexico. They will remind you if you have forgotten to do or bring anything. Some riders have forgotten passports and have had to have them mailed over-night in order to get in and out of Canada and Mexico. Have a checklist and read it before leaving!

FIRST-TIMERS MEETING

If you have not been on a Three Flags Classic ride, we have a first-timers meeting to answer questions and provide some sound advice. First-timers are encouraged to attend. This year the meeting will be held about 3 PM, before dinner. Normally it is held after dinner, but we want everyone to have ample sleep as you will turn in your Start Card between 2:30 and 5:00 AM. Your Start Card has important information on it for the staff, but basically tells us you're on the road and we're expecting you at Checkpoint #1! Start your engines!

MAXIMUM REGISTRANTS

This ride is being capped at 300 registrants. We currently have 291 registered riders. If you've been procrastinating. It's time! If you know anyone who is thinking about riding, please let them know we will max out!

Steven Shulman, Chairman
2022 Three Flags Classic
The 45th Annual Ride