



It's that time of year again when the toy runs begin to collect toys and raise money for local charities. If you are a seasoned toy run veteran or thinking about participating for the first time, take a look at these tips:

Toys- All toys must be new and most times unwrapped (unless otherwise specified). While all toys are appreciated, please remember the children who receive these toys are of all ages. Stuffed animals are cute, but also are very plentiful. When shopping, think about purchasing toys that are activity based- action figures, read along books, CD/DVDs, etc. And don't forget about the older kids, teenagers have very different needs than toddlers.

Traveling With Toys- Don't forget to attach your toys well to your bike. It's sad to see toys that were meant for needy kids lying in the middle of the road. If you don't have saddle bags, remember that most of these runs will accept cash donations instead of toys which the organizers will use to buy needed items after the run.

The Ride- Arrive early. Plan to be there at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the run. If the toy run is an actual group run, remember to use the standard group riding rules. Ride in staggered formation and leave enough room in front of you to break comfortably if you come to a sudden stop.

Have Fun- Bikers are some of the most caring people around. We are always riding for causes to help the less fortunate. Remember why you are riding and the fun will follow.

If you have more tips you would like to share, email them to me at info@curvesahead.net and I will add them to this article.