

Event Overview

The inaugural GranFondo Niagara Falls offers thousands of passionate cyclists the opportunity to ride the world-renowned Niagara Parkway in a cycling express lane on closed roads from the downtown corridor, its acclaimed wine country, and the idyllic countryside of the Niagara Region and Niagara Escarpment including the winding rollers around the Short Hills Provincial Park. This 127km ride is a precedent-setting event that starts and finishes right at the Falls and you will wonder why this setting has never been the stage for an event like this before.

In order to execute this “Big Ride”, a number of volunteers will be needed to fill a wide range of roles and responsibilities including pre and post event logistics, as well as in-event execution. These volunteers will be an integral part of successful event execution, helping to create the memorable experience being sought by thousands of dedicated cyclists.

Volunteer Role Descriptions

1. Pre-Event Logistics

This is your chance to get the ultimate behind-the-scenes experience. Join in the pre-event madness here by helping the team with a variety of tasks including sorting and organizing supplies, assembling packages, and good old heavy lifting. Don't worry, we have a few ideas up our sleeves to make the tasks as fun as possible!

2. Welcome GranFesta*

The Welcome GranFesta is the big event that takes place the day before the event and is where the riders come to pick up their packages and browse our fun sponsor booths. Help us set up the Welcome GranFesta, provide a friendly face to help riders through registration, distribute event swag bags and pre-ordered jerseys, and/or answer any inquiries. Welcome GranFesta offers that moment when the GranFondo Niagara actually becomes a reality for so many riders after months or maybe years of training. Be a part of that moment!

3. Event Communication Centre*

The ECC acts as the central point of communication for any first aid or general event related issues. We need a team to help run this 'mission control' station, monitoring the radios and recording all issues and major milestones. The ECC centralizes communication and ensures that critical information is tracked and disseminated to key decision makers. Ever wondered what it would be like working in a NASA control room? OK, so this might not come that close but it's a similar idea.

4. Start Area*

Right in the middle of all the action! As thousands of riders mount their bikes and focus on the long ride ahead of them, you will be right there next to them cheering them on as they begin. As part of the team, your roles and responsibilities could encompass warmly welcoming riders, distributing rider packages, getting riders set up and properly positioned, answering any rider questions, controlling pedestrian access points, and/or checking bags.

5. On Course

This position puts you right in the action, as you witness the pedaling and determination of all the riders as they pass you on the course. Course Marshalls are situated at different points on the course controlling pedestrians, vehicles, cyclists and overall just ensuring public safety during the ride. You must be an excellent communicator as you could have to direct a lot of different people. Keen to try cheerleading? Cheering on the cyclists as they pass is also highly encouraged!

6. Rest Stops

The riders will definitely be glad to see you! Along the course we provide multiple rest stops for all the riders to grab some food, water and stretch out their legs. In this position you will set up and tear down the rest stop, prepare and distribute food and refreshments, and the most important job, cheering on the riders and providing encouragement to keep going strong. For the riders, seeing you up ahead will be like seeing an oasis in the desert!

7. Finish Area

The riders will definitely be glad to see you! After hours of intense riding, you will be the one standing in the finish area with a big smile on your face ready to fulfill any number of roles. You will be right there in the heart of the event and witness riders finally accomplish one of their biggest goals. Whether assisting to keep the site clean, delivering supplies, directing and cheering on the riders, or distributing hydration and nutrition, there is no better feeling than seeing thousands of tired but extremely proud and happy faces.

Skills and Experience

- Reliable, enthusiastic and enjoys working with people
- Good organization skills and the ability to multi-task
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Previous customer service experience an asset
- Physically able to be on your feet for majority of shift
- Comfortable with some physical labour
- Ability to take initiative, think on your feet and problem solve
- Attention to detail

Training

Any training required will be delivered at the start of your shift by the team captain. For certain areas above, there are specific roles that require additional pre-event training as well. Areas that include such positions are marked accordingly with an asterisk. You will be contacted pre-event to organize this extra training.

Takeaways

- World class event experience
- Volunteer t-shirt and food
- Chance to win trip for 2 anywhere in Canada
- Opportunity to represent your community to people from all over the world
- Opportunity to inspire sport participation and influence positive physical activity
- Hands-on experience within the sport industry
- Real world opportunity to demonstrate and enhance leadership, communication, and organizational skills

Date / Time Commitment

Volunteers will be need across varying times and dates leading up and during the event, from Monday, September 9 to Saturday, September 14. Please refer to specific roles for individual dates and times.

Register / Sign Up

For individuals interested in signing up as a volunteer, please complete the following steps:

- 1) Register online at <http://granfondoniagarafalls.volunteerhub.com/Events/Index>
- 2) Click “Sign In” at the top right hand corner of the window.
- 3) Click “Register” to select your user name and password, as well as provide the necessary contact information.
- 4) Upon completing registration, you will have access to view the volunteer roles available to be filled, as well as any additional details about specific roles.
- 5) To sign up for a specific role, click the “Sign Up” button to the left of the position.

Additional Information

If any additional questions remain or further information is required, please contact Chris Verlaan, chris.verlaan@niagarasportcommission.com.