**Who?** You! Adventure Leader: Mark Graves.

**What?** Bikepacking – the idea is to pack your bike (pannier, handlebar bag, whatever you’ve got) or your self (backpack) with gear and food you need for your adventure, bike a distance, then camp.

**When?** Depart Saturday August 27 – overnight at Wildwood – return Sunday August 28th.

**Where?** Participants will be packing up and departing Stratford towards St. Marys, following a primarily gravel route and ending up at Wildwood Conservation Area (route TBD, but approximately 30 km). We will be using the Group Camping area for our overnight camping.

**Why?** For fun! Adventure! Try something new. Stretch yourself.

**How?**  Intro to Bikepacking preparatory sessions will be held in the weeks before the bikepacking adventure to teach you what you need to pack/bring, how to assemble your bike, etc. Support will be provided day-of to ensure you have a safe and successful setup for the ride.

**More Details**

1. **Cost** – There is a fee for camping at Wildwood – per tent is $18.50 (each site can have max 3 tents or 6 people). If you share a tent with a friend, it’s only $9.25/person.
2. **Supplies** – You must supply your own food, water, drinks, snacks, gear and anything else required for your personal bike and camping adventure. *(See note below – some gear can be shared.)*
3. **Registration** – You must register and pay in advance to participate in this program - email Jennifer at programscyclestratford@gmail.com . We have held three (3) campsites at this time – please consider registering early for this adventure. If you wait until August, we may not have an option to book more campsites for participants.
4. **Rain or Shine** – Due to the non-refundable camping reservations, the bikepacking adventure will run rain or shine. However, if the weather is horrible you could arrange for someone to pick you up at Wildwood and shuttle you/your bike home to your warm, dry bed.
5. **Can I ride, but not camp, or vice versa**? We can accommodate participation on the ride (but not camping), and camping-only but you will be personally responsible for any/all alternative arrangements outside the group schedule. Email to let us know what you are thinking.
6. **Can you shuttle my stuff**? Yes. This adventure is for people wanting to experience Bikepacking (preferably with the “packing” part), but we will offer a ‘sherpa’ service where some of your stuff can be shuttled from Stratford to Wildwood and back. For example, maybe you can take food and snacks on your bike, but that big old tent just won’t fit. We got you covered.
7. **Can I bring a friend?** Yes, but register early!! We have limited camping spots reserved until we know exactly who is coming. Non-members must sign a waiver to participate.
8. **Can I do this if I have zero bikepacking experience?** If you are an experienced cyclist (road, gravel, or mountain) and have camped outside in a tent, you can do this. If you have any kind of bag that can attach to your bike or your person (pannier, handlebar bag, seat bag, frame bag, fanny pack, backpack) then you can “pack” some/all your stuff and bike it out to Wildwood.
9. **What gear do I need?** You are strongly encouraged to attend the Bikepacking 101 sessions to be held in July-August to learn from Mark about what you need to bring, pack, or have shuttled out for camping. Bikepacking is a minimalist sport – the smaller/lighter the better. We will be able to share some gear – e.g., we don’t need 10 lighters to start the campfire. Mark has graciously offered use of a large tent that could hold up to 6 people if needed.
10. **Can I volunteer to help in some way?** Yes! If you are interested in helping organize any part of this Bikepacking Adventure, or to provide support day-of, please let us know.