

## Bicycle team has a will and a way across U.S.

By Melissa Murphy

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Ken Scarberry is in 'Team Will' (Courtesy photo)

Traveling across the country on a bicycle is no easy trek, but for a group of determined bike riders their cause is what gives them the 'will' to keep going.

The group of about 14 bike riders make up "Team Will," a team with a mission to raise awareness and funds across the United States for childhood cancer research.

"Cancer is the number one killer among our children right now," according to Ken Scarberry, a bike rider who works for the Solano County Office of Education. "The ride is not a competition. It's a message of hope."

The first cross-country bike tour was in 2006 in honor of 17-month-old William Leo Kiefer who lost his fight with cancer. This year, still in honor of Will, the group is riding to honor all children battling cancer.

"We can't keep thinking out of sight out of mind," Scarberry said. "It could happen to anyone. We'll be a billboard for searching for a cure."

The 3,100-mile trip will take 10 days, stopping at hospitals and communities along the way.

The group will leave San Francisco June 16 and expects to arrive in Annapolis, Md. on June 25. At least one cyclist will be on the road 24 hours each day.

The four teams of cross-country relay cyclists will alternate riding with sleeping in vans along the way.

"We're not professionals by any means," Scarberry said. "We want to be ambassadors for the children. It puts a real purpose behind my enjoyment of bike riding."

Each bike rider will be wearing a blue "Go The Distance" bracelet and will be riding for a specific child battling cancer. The group calls the children heroes.

"We can walk away from the situation, but they have to stay," Scarberry said. "This is easy for us, so we're riding to tell their stories."

Scarberry admitted that the easiest part is actually riding the bike, but that the struggle comes with the lack of sleep. The group is set on raising awareness, but that comes at a price.

The cost of gas keeps rising, putting the need for funding at a greater importance. At the very least,

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each rider needs about \$2,500 to cover transportation, meals and housing.

"The purpose of this is to share with people the seriousness of childhood cancer and encourage them to get behind it and support the cause to find a cure," Scarberry said.

For more information or to make a donation visit [www.team-will.org](http://www.team-will.org).

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