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## CSCS Climate Ride Update

Hi and welcome to another update!

We have a lot to share with you this week, including an exciting opportunity for ten cyclists, our plans for Iowa and a special treat from the trip's photographer and videographer. So, let's jump right in!

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### The opportunity

Do you care about climate change and like to bike but just weren't sure about riding across the whole country? Guess what?!

**We're inviting 10 riders to join us for the last five days of the ride!**



Riders training in Goshen, IN. Photo by Emma Zuercher.

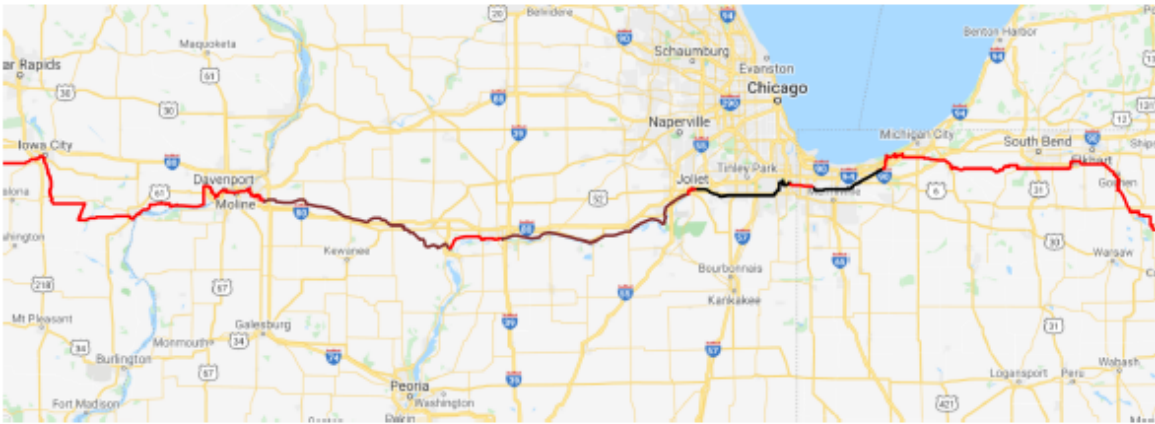
These cyclists will join the 17 riders and two leaders for the last five days of their 2-month trip (July 24-28). This is a chance to enjoy a scenic ride, talk about climate issues and learn about what these young people have discovered as they traveled across the country. Doug Kaufman, the director of pastoral ecology at CSCS, will lead reflections during this section as the group learns together what it means to faithfully respond to the climate crisis.

The last leg of the route will cover 326 miles along the renowned [Great Allegheny Passage](#) and [C&O Canal Towpath](#). The trip will end in Washington DC with a celebration on the national mall, Capitol Hill visits for the riders and a townhall meeting in the evening where participants will reflect on their journey.

We're accepting approximately 10 additional riders for this part of the trip. **Sign up [here](#) to put your name on the interest list, and we'll get back to you with details.**

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**Event Spotlight: Iowa**



Our focus as we ride through Iowa and Illinois will be on the topics of sustainable agriculture and immigration.

Our first activity on our rest day, July 7, will be to get to know the [Land Alliance Folk School](#) and farm operated by Anna Geyer just outside of Iowa City. In addition to learning about sustainable land management and agriculture at the farm, we will join community members to watch a screening of the play [Vang](#). This play by Iowa poet laureate Mary Swander addresses issues around the life of immigrant farmers.

The next day, we will continue into Iowa City to connect with First Mennonite Church, ride with community members and learn about the [Butterflies & Their People](#) organization. This nonprofit works to protect monarch butterflies by preserving necessary forest habitat along the path of monarch migration in both the US and Mexico and draws connections between human immigration and butterfly migration. To further explore the connection between human rights and conservation, we will have a zoom interaction with members of the organization from the Cerro Pelon Sanctuary in Mexico.

Finally, on July 10, we will visit the [Hungry World Farm](#) in Illinois, where we will have another opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture and education.

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## Meet the riders



## Thomas Guadalupe-Johnson

Thomas Guadalupe-Johnson is a junior graphic and visual design major at Eastern Mennonite University. Thomas loves all forms of art, "all the way from painting and sculpture to film and graphic design;" but art is only one of his passions. Thomas, who grew up in Clayton, North Carolina, also loves botany, carpentry, fishing, hunting and motor vehicles.

Thomas competes on the cross country and track teams at EMU and looks forward to the growth that will result from the physical challenges of this bike trip. "This opportunity," he said, "puts me in a position to better myself, (and) hopefully better others, which would better our world."

Growing up, Thomas spent time living in Virginia and Puerto Rico besides North Carolina. "Every year we destroy more and more of this beautiful earth and the creatures inhabiting it," Thomas laments. While he finds this really concerning, he also finds reason for hope: "Knowing that we can change one simple habit and save a species should give any the motivation to take action."



## Loren Friesen

Loren Friesen is the visual communication coordinator for the bike ride. A videographer, photographer and motion graphic designer living in San Diego, California, Loren will be documenting the trip through pictures and videos.

Loren calls Fresno, California home, but as the son of Mennonite Central Committee workers, he also spent time living in Vietnam and India when he was growing up.

Loren studied communication and media at Fresno Pacific University. After graduating in 2019, he volunteered with MCC in Durban, South Africa for seven months before returning home at the start of the pandemic.

Besides taking photos and videos, Loren also likes to play soccer, surf, hike and run and has recently been enjoying San Diego's coast-side bike routes as he trains for the trip.

When Loren thinks about climate change, one of the things that worries him the most is the lack of policy addressing it. He believes that for people to make changes in a capitalist society, economic incentives are critical. "If it is profitable to address climate change," Loren said, "then we'll do it." Policies can provide the economic

incentives needed to mobilize people to change their ways. Loren sees the need for mass changes as not only a challenge, but an opportunity to "make our cities greener and our public spaces more intimate with the earth."

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### Watch Loren's video

During the eight weeks of the trip, Loren will be producing videos regularly to share the riders' experiences. These will be posted on the CSCS website. In the meantime, he just released the first of a series of weekly videos documenting his personal buildup to the trip. You can watch Loren's videos (the first one is linked below) to get to know him better and join him in the last five weeks of preparation.



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Thanks again for following along on this update! As usual, we'll leave you with a final nugget to think about:

"It requires a lot of imagination and willpower to develop and implement technologies that will reduce our carbon footprint, so while we are in this collective creative mindset, I hope... some of that spills into all facets of society, including public works and overall design of our physical society."

- Loren Friesen

## Subscribe to the Climate Ride Newsletter!

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