

ROAD RALLY INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the 30th Annual 2018 Road Rally, which is also being commemorated as the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Road Rally from Hell. One little change. This time you are going **to** Hell. Great vacation spot. Bring SPF 500 skin lotion. An oxygen mask and scuba equipment are helpful. It gets hot down there.

It is Dante's version of redemption, as stated in **The Divine Comedy**. Not that you have read it. Get the **Cliff's Notes** version and some mountaineering gear. REI has a great special. Icepicks work as well. Monster repellent. Ya' never know.

But you have all been all a little bit bad, haven't you? Let's face it, you are going to **Hell**. Bummer. You all well know by this time, the rally's torch has been taken to Florence, Italy where it is scheduled to begin **punctually** at 8:30 in the morning on Tuesday, August 21st, 2018. We will meet in the Piazza Santa Croce in front of the statue of your nemesis, Dante Alighieri, and we will serve as your "Virgil" to guide you down to this wonderful and endearing place, so picturesque and chockful of wildlife. The starting gun will be fired at 9:15 a.m. Coffee and croissants are best on your own at some nearby cafés.

It is imperative that **EVERYONE** arrive by 8:30 a.m. The assignment of teams will occur the night before. As much as we would like, unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will not be carrying your luggage back to the campsite. There is liability involved and just too much for us to transport (36?) while hiding last minute clues.

So it is imperative you get your bags to the driver you are assigned to the night before. The drivers and phone list is attached. Keep a night bag for the next evening as you will be staying at a half-way house. They will let you out with an escort and a drug test.

Word to the Wise: try to get some sleep the night before, and at all costs avoid the nasty hangover, or bad street food, as you will need every last ounce of alertness and physical endurance to fully enjoy this contest before lynching your hosts. If you don't get there by the starting bell, you are on your own.

The Halfway House

This is a two day rally. Based upon traffic, parking and the usual concerns about taking a minute to smell the roses, we have included a mid-point stay at a place along the way. You will not be at the destination until the late afternoon or early evening of 8/22. Then you will have six days to soak up the rewards of your efforts, in the event you actually succeed in conquering your nine circles of hell. If you don't, gosh, well let's not talk about that.

The places have a bed list and are prepaid with the exception of amenities/parking which you are responsible for. Overnight parking is included in only one of the locales, but both parking locations have been set forth in detail in your clue sheets or clues. Just because you get there does not mean you stop looking. Though we tried, some couples will have to be split up in twins in quad rooms. (4 people). Other couples because of their age, rally seniority and multiple handicaps may get priority on queen beds. This is only for that evening.

How to play:

You will be placed on a rally team that has an available brain.

Each team is assigned a different theme with a clue sheet that sends them on a unique path throughout the contest. Some teams may and probably will cross your path at some

point. In fact, you may even run across their clues while looking for your own. Do not take them as this is a big time rally violation that may call for disqualification. All of the clues should bear the particular team's rally color, which should be immediately recognizable. If you happen to pick up a clue that doesn't match your color, put it back exactly where you found it.

The **Clue Sheet** starts out with an introduction about who you are, and what your objective is. It will then direct you to the first numbered "clue sheet" clue. Basically, if you operate with what you have, either in your sheet or what's in your party bag, common sense will tell you to go to the indicated location. There you will, after some search, hopefully locate the hidden clue, which this year is in the form of a laminated clue card with a circle at the end of it. The circle is the Circle of Hell which you are trying to exit. Once you find it, if you look on the back, your admission to the next circle is granted. The clue card will be numbered according to the sin and sequence that Dante wrote about. You will go through nine of these over the course of the next two days, and we will need all of your clue cards (1 through 9) for you to have a chance of placing. But clue card one won't be worth much unless you refer to Clue sheet No. 2, which basically gives you the other half of the directions. This isn't to say that some teams haven't, with a good amount of patience, been able to figure out the whole with just the half, and completely avoiding calling the hotline, which is a no-no. In any event, you sort of zigzag from clue sheet to little clue and back again until you ultimately find your way to the rally house.

The Clues: Use your common sense when looking for clues. Unless you are specifically told to speak to an individual, or it is inferred, **do not** indicate to anyone that you are on a road rally at any business or public establishments to which you are sent, unless you feel that there is no security risk involved, or you have a peculiar fascination with the Italian criminal justice system. Be brave, but not stupid. If your searching looks conspicuous, pretend you

are looking for a lost contact lense or engagement ring, or that your particular vocation requires you to feel up signs, trees and museum artifacts as if they were your first date. Half of the rally is putting on a good act. The other half is watching people laugh at you. If you feel uncomfortable in searching for a specific clue at a given location, don't. Call the hotline and tell them what your problem is. Perhaps you don't have a penchant for quicksand, old crime scenes, or tall towers. And after we stop laughing, we'll be glad to give you as much of your next clue as you want, but you may end up suffering a sizable penalty, depending on your relative density as players. As to the clues themselves, all of them will be well-hidden laminated and some may come with toys or various other artifacts that you need to also take with you. Make sure to pick up all related items.

You will be wearing apparel. You will be discounted if you are caught not wearing it and so photographed by another team. However, you are not to wear it in any church or museum or public facility. There you will be discounted by being taken into custody.

Dress: Shorts and T-shirts are fine across the board. Women should at least wear something to cover their shoulders.

Photographs:

Each team will be required to take a picture of each of their clue sites, with an idea to taking a picture of where the clue is **or was supposed to be**. This avoids endless litigation later about that "lost" clue. Two members need to be in the shot.

Some "animals" will be photographed and not actual plastic skunks or deer running around. The photo will count as your animal. (See **animals**) In some instances you still have to take another photo of your clue site, as the animal picture may be some distance. Where this occurs, the 15" rule no longer applies. Your clue sheets will let you know. This is the rare occasion.

Some bonus photographs may be recommended in your clue sheets. Take them at your discretion.

Double clues:

In all cases, an optional clue will be provided in the vicinity. It will be of equal difficulty. It is an exact duplicate. You just need to find one. In some instances, the sheet actually tells you to go to one of two places. Still, only one shade will be planted.

Shades:

An additional challenge is finding and taking the party animals at each clue site. Their purpose is threefold: 1) To conspicuously mark the clue site so that the rally teams know they are on the right trail 2) To prove to the rally planners that they have been to the clue site and, 3) As an additional searching challenge that will give a team extra points, to compensate for any errors, or to simply put them over the top. These animals, usually a **small** plastic animal hidden near the written clue, will be in about a fifteen foot radius of the clue, **unless the clue sheet specifies otherwise**. (I.e. photographing an animal) Make sure to pick them up when you see them and put them in your bag. And **don't** confuse them with someone's little shitsu being taken for a walk, or the guy at the end of the bar who keeps on mumbling that he wants to party.

The photos will be developed at a one hour photo. Let's call it the photo finish.

The hotline:

At the end of each clue sheet, you will see three phone numbers. We may add a fourth. This is the **HOTLINE**. These are the hotline numbers to call in case you are in rally trouble. Like that red phone in the White House that can trigger a holocaust. Use it carefully, for the biggest penalty a team can suffer is the calling of the hotline for help.

Change of Rule:

New York City puts a different spin on the hotline rule because of the following:

- (1) You will have to be at **Destination X** at 8:00 p.m. (**sorry**, this is not even close to the rally house). So the idea of folks gallivanting around 'til midnight and winning, though arriving last, because they didn't use the **verboden** hotline is not acceptable. We therefore will emphasize that it is better to call the hotline once to get all your clues than it is to not do so, get lost and skip from the third to the ninth clue because you were just. . I don't know telepathic. **You can't really do that** this year and **now** we emphasize on calling and getting back on track to your clue sites as being more important. No rally has ever been perfect. Clues have a habit of walking away. Animals meander to greener pastures. Interactive contacts at locations go off-shift. Murphy's Law is in full gear. If you look for a clue at a precisely described location, and it's not there, up, down, beneath, over, airborne or underground, then there's a good chance it's been lost. Don't panic; a hotline call won't cost you anything, as long as the place you have thoroughly searched is the *place in question, and you disclose that first, and of course you take a photograph, and the clue is not where it should be.* But if it's a fire hydrant and you forgot to look inside it, we must regret to inform you

For example: Team 1 goes to 3 clues, bounces to the final one without any help and never calls in. Team 2 gets through 8 clues, calls once, and gets to the destination and makes the final required call after Team 1. Team 2 wins.

So calling the hotline is not the worse thing in the world. It is no longer the clutch of death. We need to move you guys along. We are going to be more indulgent this year because of the place. Thus we've added the photograph challenge that gives credit to the sites that actually were seen.

- (2) Calling the hotline could also be relatively harmless; like, this subway's down; do you know another one we can take?

- (3) And don't call the party hotline if you can't find an animal. They're only gravy anyway, and though important as tie breakers, they are not worth the time and risk involved in calling the hotline. Don't spend an inordinate amount of time looking for them.

DESTINATION X:

At 7:15 p.m. you will be absolutely required to leave your location and make it to this Destination. It is in Mid-Manhattan. Someone will be waiting for you there. He will provide you with tickets. ***But you will first have to make a hotline call, with the answer to a question.*** Then, you will take a mode of transport at 8:48 p.m., and have to transfer. If you miss it, frankly, you have missed the rally, as there are ***no*** other options, unless you rip into your emergency envelope and decide to cab it at about \$200.00. ***You must be at Destination X by 8:00 p.m.***

EARLYBIRD EMERGENCY NOTE:

If you have a physical or an emergency problem with a teammate, then that team member should rip open the EARLYBIRD emergency envelope, not disclose its contents to you and follow the instructions. You can drop off the teammate at the indicated possible destinations without wasting much time. They are however responsible for buying their way home to the rally house. It is not the easiest to do alone but it is the only available option. An envelope is provided with the rally location.

If the team goes on, there are no penalties.

The rally bags:

Each team will have a rally bag at the beginning of the race. It will contain several copies of your clue sheet, maps of various areas, a sealed map of last resort (leading you straight to the party house and folded many times to inhibit X-ray vision) as well as some miscellaneous junk that may or may not be relevant

to your clue run. **Make sure** to examine the contents of your bag before you take off. The secret to that difficult clue may be in there. Or it might just be a red herring. Hopefully, at the end of the run, they will be filled with party animals, clues and toys that you have found along the way. We love toys. Remember to place all the items you find in the bag as you go and then deliver it to us when you get to the location. We may need some of the stuff back.

Videos: Some teams may have videos at some point in their clue run. They're less than ten minutes long. A reference is made during the filmed skit to where you should go to find a clue. Please read your Clue sheet's next paragraph before viewing the video as it may tell you what to look for. And **take notes** during the tape if you feel it might be helpful. Rally bags will be supplied with pen and paper.

One more challenge: Thanks to the innovations of rallies from before, there is one more rather vicious little addition to the usual rules. Each team will be wearing a bowler hat that is marked with their team's emblem. You have to wear these, **unless you are in museums or places of worship**. In fact, **do not wear them** if you go there. Take them off. Put them in your knapsack.

The challenge here is that if you happen to run across another team's member (any member will do, especially those not wearing a hat), take a photo of them and we will calculate that into the points. If they are circumcised, this is a plus. You win some, they lose some. But then again, you lose one important exposure.

You will not be allowed to remove their hats physically, or torture them in any way. That would be an immediate disqualification, and I might add, particularly difficult.

The competition:

Obviously, one of the most controlling factors is being the first team to call in at **Destination X** with a certain answer. This will have little value if you've missed clue sites, party animals or cheated in some way. But, it does count for a lot. The planners will simply factor it in against the accomplishments of competing teams

Be courteous and open to your traveling companions. And to the merchants you encounter. They are very nice to cooperate with this adventure, especially during a busy day at work.

The last thing anyone needs is to have a "team captain" who makes all of the decisions. Some of them will probably be wrong. This is supposed to be a team effort so take into consideration what others have to say. And for you whiners who just want to get to the party, keep in mind that there are some of us out there who enjoy a good challenge, so try to work with your more competitive team members. And as far as your competitive fiends are concerned, the following suggestions apply:

DO NOT devote more than **an hour** to searching for a clue.

Make sure you have some cash to cover incidental expenses, such as cab fare, tips water, lost subway tix. I would suggest a **minimum** of 100.00 each for the whole weekend. And that is conservative.

NYC is really expensive. We are in the red but are happy you guys have had the guts to come, and ponied an unprecedented rally fee. I am sure it will be less in future rallies. We have sorely tried to keep this to a minimum.

Accommodations:

As indicated in the previous e-mails, we are under strict occupancy rules at our vacation rentals. This in part has caused to turn late-comers away, because we would seriously risk being kicked out or losing our deposits. In addition, the idea of a "party house" is apparently anathema to certain influential locals. This means that no matter where

people end up sleeping, having 37 people in any one house (or even twenty), drinking and carousing until all hours of the night will get us into trouble. Naturally, Saturday and Sunday night (for awards, speeches and general foolishness) there will simply have to be exceptions to this hard and fast rule. But please, use your discretion; keep windows and doors closed so as to not disturb the neighbors. Otherwise, it would be advisable not to concentrate daily activities in a single house, but to migrate as rally nomads from place to place, checking out the kitchen appliances. Just please try to stay in public outside spaces or attend various gettogethers that will probably be sprouting in a number of different places, at different times. Each place has been equipped with basic essentials, alcohol included, so as to not centralize too much of the partying at one particular place. The two places, sadly, are a 12 minute cab ride apart. **No drinking and driving. You won't get to.**

And **No Smoking Inside** any of the places.

As teams arrive on Saturday night, house assignments will have to be made so that 37 people aren't left to travel from one location to another in search of a bed. We have tried to accommodate people as to various needs: quiet and early vs. loud and late, but what controls are the beds. Couples are in doubles and singles are in singles.

We have one blow-up mattress, nice and comfy and will fit two. **DFL is still DFL.**

If you're not happy with your bedding accommodation, you are more than welcome to switch with someone else. Please understand that Chinese fire drills are not the wave of the vacation rental future. We will have large vans. And maybe a car or two, it is important to us that you coordinate with your fellow house mates or hotel mates as to what you are going to do and when you want to do it. Other wise, cab fare can add up. Though cabs are plentiful.

AND REMEMBER . . . the point is to have
a good time! GOOD LUCK and see you at
the PARTY . . .