

RIDE OF PASSAGE

THE ADVENTURES OF MATT PARKER



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The Final Stretch for 25-Year Old American Adventurer-Horseman Takes Him Through Downtown Washington D.C.

Washington DC, October 21, 2005 -- Matt Parker, the 25-year old American adventurer, approaches the tail end of his ride of passage and making history by pioneering a horse trail across the United States. Parker, native to Ann Arbor, Michigan has set his goal to become the first person to traverse the 5,000+ miles of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) on horseback.

Approaching the major metropolitan DC area this week, Parker will continue to follow the ADT from Rock Creek Park through Greenbelt Park and on to Annapolis. Then he, and his horse "Cincinnati", will have a short trailer ride across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. At that point he will continue east another 86 miles to reach the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware where the ADT ends.

Matt Parker's adventure started in California in May of 2003 when he set forth to be the first person to cross the United States pioneering a horse trail for the 4,000+ miles of the American Discovery Trail (ADT).

Parker's ride of passage will soon include educating the Department of Interior about his travel experience. While in Washington, Parker will have the opportunity to meet with several congressmen, as well as the president of the American Discovery Trail.

"I am looking forward to completing the ADT as well as achieving my goals," states Matt Parker. "More importantly, the people I have met along the way and my experiences with the trail have exceeded my expectations and have been far more gratifying than I have ever imagined," Parker continues.

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In 2003 Matt started his journey on a Racking Horse named "Smokey" and crossed the deserts and mountains of Nevada and Utah facing many challenges. While resting at ranches along the way, he earned his keep by mending fences and herding cattle. In September 2003 he reached Manti-LaSal National Forest in Utah where he stopped for the winter.

In 2004, Matt resumed his journey crossing the Colorado Rocky Mountains and the plains of Kansas, once again needing to stop in December do to severe winter weather near Council Grove in Topeka, Kansas. In June, of this year, Parkers journey started again completing his longest uninterrupted stretch of the ADT.

During his journey Matt experienced several obstacles and some unexpected setbacks. Everything, from a broken back after being dragged by his horse, to an injured knee that still makes riding difficult, to a mountain lion attack and whacky tick fever, Parker refused to give up and continued logging anywhere from 15 to 30 miles a day.

The ADT is a new breed of national trail, traversing through cities, small towns, forests, mountains, and deserts in its coast-to-coast journey, starting in Point Reyes in California and ending in, Delaware. The ADT passes through 15 states, 14 National Parks and 16 National Forests, connecting 5 National Scenic Trails, 11 National Historic Trails, and 30 National Recreational Trails.

Matt invites all horse clubs and individuals to ride along with him as he approaches Washington and through the Downtown area. If interested in riding, or to lend support to Matt and Cincinnati with water, food, hay or lodging along his journey please call Nicole McGrath at 559.709.2601 or email to nicolemcgrath@gmail.com. To view where Matt is currently traveling as well as photos and personal movies from Matt's amazing journey visit www.rideofpassage.com.

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