

Kiley Smith

My Story:

- Hometown: Brookfield, WI
- Graduated from UW-Madison
- Works at Exact Sciences

JDRF Connections:

I was diagnosed with type 1 in June of 2013. My cousin was diagnosed seven months earlier, and a good family friend was diagnosed six months after me. Through JDRF and the type 1 club at Madison, I now have so many reasons to ride.

Ride to Cure Journey:

My family and I participated in the JDRF One Walk while I was in high school, but after my senior year, my dad and I decided we wanted to do the ride instead. We didn't even own road bikes, and I hadn't ridden more than five miles before. So, we borrowed some bikes and started training. We initially set out to do 50 miles, then we heard that a metric century was only 62 miles, and then we bumped it up to 75. Come ride day, we ended up riding 81 miles! That first ride weekend was so much fun, it immediately became my favorite weekend of the year. There is nothing better than spending an entire weekend with people who are dedicated to curing type 1.

Favorite Ride:

It is really hard to pick which ride is my favorite, every ride weekend is so much fun. But, I would probably have to pick the 2018 Lacrosse ride. It was my first century ride, and my mom's and my sister's first JDRF ride. I was also lucky enough to be surrounded by so many family friends who joined us.

My 2023 Initial Thoughts and Goals:

I'm excited to get started as a new coach and continue riding with Team Wisconsin. I'm hoping that we can recruit some new riders and bring back some previous riders who may have missed a couple years.

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