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Cyclists Shift into High Gear for the 29th Annual BP MS 150

*Registration Open for the Country's Largest Charity Bike Ride Benefiting
the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and its Mission to Help Thousands Impacted by MS*

HOUSTON, Feb. 13, 2013 – On April 20 - 21, 2013, an estimated 13,000 cyclists from across the country and world will make the annual two-day, 180-mile journey from Houston to Austin for the [29th Annual BP MS 150](#), benefiting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. As the largest fundraising bike ride in the country, the BP MS 150 connects thousands of cyclists of all skill levels, along with volunteers and supporters, as they embark on a shared journey to drive awareness for multiple sclerosis and raise \$18 million to help those impacted by MS.

Since the first ride in 1985, the Houston-to-Austin bike ride has remained focused on one mission – raising funds to support cutting-edge research, programs and services for thousands of Texans affected by MS. Each participating cyclist makes a contribution that supports these initiatives. While the minimum pledge amount is \$400, many participants exceed this amount, raising even more funds that go directly to those impacted by MS. The BP MS 150 continues to garner the interest of new riders each year, who account for approximately 35 percent of participants.

“Year after year, we are overwhelmed with the excitement from cyclists, sponsors and volunteers who commit to making the BP MS 150 a success. The enthusiasm and passion people have for the ride and the cause helps to not only recruit new riders, but also makes the ride, as a whole, a one-of-a-kind experience,” said Kelli Dreiling, Vice President of Development in Houston. “Everyone has different reasons for riding – to get healthy, to achieve a personal goal, or to ride for a loved one impacted by MS. No matter your reason for getting involved, the BP MS 150 unites us in the mission to help people with MS. That unifying force is what makes this ride special each year and will continue to drive us toward a world free of multiple sclerosis.”

The BP MS 150 is the top fundraising ride for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society nationwide, and has generated more than \$157 million to fund research and programs for MS. In 2012, the BP MS 150 surpassed fundraising records with more than \$17.45 million raised through the amazing efforts of riders, volunteers, sponsors and supporters. Organizers of the ride anticipate approximately 13,000 cyclists will participate in the 2013 event and help meet the Society's fundraising goal of \$18 million. To maintain safety on the road and preserve the integrity of the ride, the BP MS 150 limits participation to 13,000 cyclists in order to keep the safest environment for all involved. BP will serve as title sponsor of the ride for the 13th year and maintains the largest cycling team with approximately 750 participants.

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2013 BP MS 150 Press Release

"BP is proud to once again sponsor the BP MS 150," said John Mingé, incoming Chairman and President of BP America. "We greatly value being a part of all of the communities in which we operate, but this partnership, now well into its second decade, has helped create a special bond between our U.S. Headquarters and Texas. It affords us the opportunity to give back to this great state while also supporting the fight against MS. I look forward to cheering for the more than 700 Team BP riders and all the other teams participating in this year's ride."

Cyclists will start their journey in Houston on Saturday, April 20 and finish in downtown Austin in front of the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum near the State Capitol on Sunday, April 21, following an overnight celebration in La Grange. Three start options are available from Houston: Tully Stadium, Rhodes Stadium in Katy and Waller High School Stadium in Waller. On day two, riders can choose between two routes, the Bechtel Challenge Route or the Pfizer Lunch Express, as they make their way from La Grange to Austin. On the Bechtel Challenge Route cyclists have the opportunity to ride through scenic Bastrop and Buescher State Parks, each known for its beauty and rolling hills.

The BP MS 150 is one of five outstanding fundraising rides hosted by the National MS Society in Texas. Other rides include the [Bike MS: SAM'S CLUB](#) Frisco to Texas Motor Speedway in May, [Bike MS: Ride the Rim](#) presented by BP in the Texas Panhandle in June, Bike presented by Apache in West Texas in July and [Bike MS: Valero Alamo Ride to the River, presented by H-E-B](#), in October. These rides are regarded by cyclists as the premier rides in the state, with experienced management, well-coordinated routes and special attention to rider safety and comfort.

Registration for the 2013 BP MS 150 is available at bpms150.net. Visit the site to register as a cyclist or volunteer, or to donate online. To engage with others interested in the ride and passionate about the movement of creating a world free of MS, visit facebook.com/BPMS150BikeRide or follow on Twitter [@BPMS150](https://twitter.com/BPMS150).

About Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system, interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 2.1 million people worldwide.

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. The Society addresses the challenges of each person affected by MS by funding cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education, collaborating with MS organizations around the world, and providing programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move forward with their lives. In 2011 alone, through its national office and 50-state network of chapters, the Society devoted \$164 million to programs and services that assisted more than one million people. To move us closer to a world free of MS, the Society also invested \$40 million to support more than 325 new and ongoing research projects around the world. The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. Join the movement at nationalMSSociety.org.

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Early and ongoing treatment with an FDA-approved therapy can make a difference for people with multiple sclerosis. Learn about your options by talking to your health care professional and contacting the National MS Society at nationalMSSociety.org or 1-800- 344-4867.

About BP

BP has invested more in the United States over the last five years than any other oil and gas company. With more than \$55 billion in capital spending between 2008 and 2012, BP invests more in the U.S. than in any other country. The company is the nation's second largest producer of oil and gas, a major oil refiner and a leader in alternative energy sources. With 21,000 U.S. employees, BP supports nearly a quarter of a million domestic jobs through its business activities. For more information, visit www.bp.com.

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