

RIDE OF PASSAGE

THE ADVENTURES OF MATT PARKER



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25-Year Old American Adventurer-Horseman Becomes First Person to Complete the American Discovery Trail Equestrian Route

Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware, November 2, 2005 – Matt Parker, the 25-year old American adventurer, will complete the 5000+ miles of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) on horseback Thursday, November 3. With this ride of passage he will be the first person to complete the new ADT equestrian route. In addition, Parker will be the first person to complete the trail traveling from the west to east coast since the trail was created.

Parker and his Appaloosa horse "Cincinnati" will finish his three-year journey as he rides into Cape Henlopen State Park, where the ADT meets the Atlantic Ocean, on Thursday November 3, 2005 at 10:00 am (EST). Parker will be greeted with a ceremony that will include U.S. Senator Tom Carper, State Senate Tribute, Susan "Butch" Henley, CEO, American Discovery Trail Society and Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner (invited).

Parker, a native to Ann Arbor, Michigan started his journey in California back in May of 2003. His goal is to pioneer a horse trail across the United States and become the first person to traverse the 4,000+ miles. On a Racking Horse Named "Smokey" they 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.

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The past three months of the ADT included major metropolitan cities Cincinnati and Washington DC, providing unique challenges of crossing major highways and freeways along the way. While in the DC area Parker had the opportunity to meet with the Department of Interior as well as several congressmen, all discussing his adventure and the future of the American Discovery Trail.

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 wacky 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 would like invite individuals to join him at the ceremony and more importantly he would like to thank everyone he has met along the way and that has helped him complete his ride of passage. 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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