

Bryana Mason

When I arrived in Key West FL, I had no idea what to expect – except for a life-changing experience. After all the hard work of getting sponsors and raising money for my friend Danere with Breast Cancer, I was ready to fight to finish. Once I started meeting the people that were about to embark on this amazing journey I was blown away at the bond we all shared, and that was the love of riding. It wasn't the money, but the ride!

I took off on June 20th alone and rode with one intention, to see and take it all in. I got to experience more emotions than I knew I had and, as a woman, that was astonishing! I told myself and my best friend Tony, who was my support team going into the Challenge, that I would not complain one time during the challenge or I owed him \$1,000. Well, I am proud to say I didn't complain once!

I do have to say (even though I almost hit 11 deer, two big horned ram, one elk and a buffalo), I didn't have one flaw in the Challenge. Only by the grace of God was I not distracted from this experience to the fullest. I got to sleep outside and wake up to snow everywhere in an airport in Canada and, thanks to fellow rider Rob from Pittsburgh who shared his tent, I was able to rest and keep going in the crazy rain, sleet, hail and snow! I almost died in Utah falling asleep (which is something I didn't know was truly possible) riding on a back road I plan on re-visiting during the daytime, but woke up at the last second to pull out of it. Needless to say, I pulled over and took a nap.

When I saw the sign that Homer was 10 miles away I started crying. I was sad it was over! I was so overwhelmed at the thought that I had ridden 9,000 miles alone, outside in the elements and the people I gotten to meet, the tears, laughter and excitement, that I didn't want to cross the line. I wanted that feeling of accomplishment to last forever. Now, four months later I still feel the same way when I ride and am happy that the feeling never subsided.

Thank you to the organizers who did the best job! I am proud to have been a part of the founding Challenge and will do ANYTHING to be there next year!!!!

Much Love,

~ Bryana Mason, Long Beach, CA