

MINDFUL MOTORISTS

Babes Ride Out teams up with **Mojave Desert Land Trust** to ride responsibly this month.

WORDS BY KRISTIN SCHARKEY

For the past three years, female motorcyclists have descended on Joshua Tree for the Babes Ride Out campout and group ride. The event draws thousands, and its largest gathering yet is happening Oct. 19-22 at Joshua Tree Lake Campground. "As our event grows, our responsibility grows," wrote co-founders Ashmore Ellis and Anya Violet via email. So, this year, the ladies are teaming up with local nonprofit Mojave Desert Land Trust to educate motorcyclists on desert etiquette, both at the campground and on their rides.

"We wanted to get ahead of the issues that could arise if we did not do our part in educating our guests from around the world about this fragile ecosystem and how we can protect it," they explain. "The entire town of Joshua Tree, and its beauty, has been an integral part of why our Joshua Tree event continues to grow."

Ellis and Violet say they've created clip-on re-useable cups and mugs to eliminate plastic and other trash onsite, and are working with a recycling team, Trash Pirates, to "come up with the best plan to properly sort aluminum, glass and plastic." MDLT will be in attendance to "educate riders about how to enjoy the desert without leaving a trace, as well as how to traverse the desert without damaging the ecosystem," they add. The nonprofit will



have a booth where ladies can grab Biltwell riding maps, purchase mugs and water bottles (MDLT will receive a portion of proceeds), ask questions about the local area and more. Leading up to the event, a content series shared on BRO platforms speaks to Leave No Trace principles, such as leaving wildlife alone, not riding off-road for photos, and respectfully visiting national monuments. MDLT Director of Education and Public Engagement Jacqueline Guevara says the nonprofit will host a workshop for photographers and videographers "so that as they are documenting the event, they are doing so safely and responsibly."

"We've got an incredible group of women who attend our events that truly listen and want to leave the landscape the way they found it," BRO founders say. "This education prior and during the event won't last just a weekend, but a lifetime." 🌱

HEIDI ZUMBRUN

Look Good, Do Good

While doing your part to take care of the desert landscape, consider rocking some new gear by Babes Ride Out's sister apparel brand, ATWYLD, available at atwyld.com.

1 | **TWO WHEEL OVERALLS** will keep your legs warm at night with adjustable shoulder straps and water-resistant denim, \$550.

2 | We can't decide if we like the front or the back of the **RACEWAY JACKET** better, but does it really matter when you're riding down Highway 62? \$150.

3 | Casual meets badass in the **REAL FAST TEE**, just make sure you're wearing it down designated roads so as to not disturb local wildlife, \$40.

4 | October days still feel like summer, so we're all about the relaxed feel of this **ROADSIDE JUMPER**, \$120.

