

Rules of the Road & Canyon Etiquette

Alert: Because the area is heavily used by cyclists, including many residents, it is important that all residents be familiar with the practices of the cyclists to maximize safety and to minimize the risk of car-bike accidents. Understanding the perspective of the cyclist, should help reduce any friction between motorists and cyclists in the Canyon.

Drivers should:

- Be aware that cyclists have a legal right to ride on all of the roads in and around Mandeville Canyon.
- Be aware that many of the cyclists on the roads are Canyon residents or residents of nearby communities such as Santa Monica, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades. These are your friends and neighbors. There is no reason to display hostility or anger towards cyclists, even if they slow you down briefly.
- Be aware that a car or SUV can kill or badly injure the cyclist in a collision.
- Cyclists likely cause less delay to motorists than garbage trucks and construction vehicles.
- Do not honk at cyclists unless there is a very, very good reason as it often startles them and may cause a crash.
- Going uphill, the cyclists are going from 5 mph to 18 mph, on the experience of the cyclist and whether they are riding a road bike or mountain bike. Thus, cyclists can usually be passed easily by the car within a very short time frame, once there are no oncoming cars.
- When you are going uphill, you are usually going home. Relax and take a deep breath, as it will still be there if you wait 10-30 seconds to safely pass a cyclist. The life you save could be a fellow Canyon resident.
- Going downhill, cyclists are going from 15 mph to 40 mph. Most experienced road cyclists are going at or close to the speed limit on the descent. If the cyclist is going 25-30 mph, think twice about whether you need to pass the cyclist so you can exceed the 30 mph speed limit on your way down. If the cyclist is going less than 25 mph, wait for the appropriate time to pass. Slowing to 20 mph from 30 mph for even 1-2 whole minutes to safely pass the cyclist does not actually delay you by more than a few seconds on your trip. No matter what you do coming down Mandeville, the odds are great that you will miss the light at Sunset and have to wait anyway, so relax, take a deep breath, and pass the cyclist only when it is safe and prudent to do so.
- Mountain bikers riding on the road are likely to be less experienced than road cyclists, so use extra caution when passing a mountain biker.

- Be aware that there is one group ride up Mandeville Canyon Road very early on Wednesday mornings, at approximately 6:45 a.m. At the bottom, the group is together, but by the top it is spread out in little bunches. On the descent the group splits up and typically goes in different directions from Chalon and Mandeville Canyon Road. If you see cyclists on Wednesday, please give them extra courtesy as this is a specific training ride.
- If you drive a very large SUV, use extreme caution when passing cyclists because the right side of the vehicle can be hard to judge.

Cyclists should:

- Obey all traffic laws.
- Presume that the driver cannot see them.
- Wear helmets at all times.
- Be aware that they can be killed or injured in collisions with vehicles.
- Ride on the far right side of the road, unless it is impassable.
- Ride single file, unless conditions make it safe to ride 2 abreast. Going uphill on Mandeville, below Chalon, the presumption is that riders should be single file, except if in a group ride.
- Not run stop signs in the Canyon.
- When descending, do not pass or ride dangerously or out of control.
- Be aware that some Canyon residents believe that cyclists are a nuisance and do your best to be good representatives of the cycling community.
- Do not engage in arguments with drivers. Instead report reckless drivers to the police, if appropriate.