

No. **5158**

#IRodeHerefromKentucky

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAXTON CAPLANIDES STORY BY GAGE POORE

→ “THE MORE WE EXPLORE AND THE MORE WE LEARN, the more we begin to realize just how much we haven’t seen and just how much we don’t know and have yet to understand. I want to chase that for those who can’t and share it with those who are afraid to,” wrote Drew Echelberger regarding his great American bike ride. When he visited Adventure Cycling on August 31, 2017, he had pedaled 6,700 miles through 23 states, Washington, DC, and Ontario, Canada. His goal is to ride all 50 states, every country in North America, all 10 Canadian provinces, and eventually all seven continents. The 26-year-old from Louisville, Kentucky, is a writer, photographer, and glass blower. “I have been very into art from a young age,” Drew wrote. “As a child with severe ADHD, I always had this urge to be building or making something — some tangible form of measuring my time invested into a creative outlet. I got into glassblowing in high school and quickly fell in love with the art form. The balance of science and technique was a beautiful romance you had to finesse.”

During his ride, Drew visited other artists along the way, collaborating with them in their own studios. “I have been making marbles and hiding them along the country at special places that have meant something to me. I have been posting clues to these hides on the world’s biggest marble hunt Facebook page, a digital trail of bread crumbs and interactive treasure hunt to find pieces of me I have left behind. In a cave on a secret beach, under a rock by a waterfall, at the top of a mountain, or in a tree in a public park in a city — but mainly I have been giving them as gifts to my hosts and the people I meet along the way who take me in and help me out.”

He described his journey as, “Anthony Bourdain and Hunter S. Thompson took a bike trip. I’m documenting the entire process on my Instagram (#IRodeHerefromKentucky) to inspire others to travel by bicycle. Embrace your vulnerability. Don’t let fear hold you back from chasing your dreams, and live without regret. I’m living in the moment. I’m saying yes. I’m taking yes. Most importantly, I’m attempting to live without regret.”

From Adventure Cycling’s National Bicycle Touring Portrait Collection. © 2018 Adventure Cycling Association.



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