

Rider Education Report

“It takes a village.” How many times have you heard this in your lifetime? How many times have you said it yourself? Commonly, this proverb emphasizes that it takes the collective support of community involvement in the development of a child to be happy, healthy, and well-adjusted. Uncommonly, I think this phrase can also be used in consideration of any personal or group development. This month let us explore and reflect on this idea to get a sense of its meaning.

The root of this idea is in the word community. From Dictionary.com we find the following information (edited for space considerations):

com·mu·ni·ty
/kə'myoʊnədē/
noun

- a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
- the people of a district or country considered collectively, especially in the context of social values and responsibilities.
- a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

From the Merriam-Webster we also get similar information:

- a unified body of individuals: such as the people with common interests living in a particular area
- a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society

And from the Cambridge Dictionary:

- the people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality

When I was researching this month’s article, I also came across the following chart that shows the use of the word community in various written forms of communication during the last few hundred years.



I joined GWRRA KY Chapter G in 2009 because I was looking for a group of people with whom I could ride and learn about motorcycles and motorcycling. I had been to a few rallies, but to each one I went by myself, because I only wanted to take advantage of the demo rides the

factories offered there. And I had never camped (not even once) until I joined Chapter G. I had no idea what to expect or what to bring or how to act.

In each instance above, I had no idea that what I would learn, that what was really going on in these activities was the very definition of community. People coming together for social interaction, discussion, and camaraderie. People always willing to offer assistance when it was needed, and willing to pool and share resources so no one was left at a disadvantage. Everyone taking their turn at a booth or task so that everyone could experience some fun or relaxation during the event. Everyone willing to use their unique talent to add their one piece so the puzzle was completed without any one person doing all the work.

The KRR 2025 Blast has just been entered into the history books. For me, it was a great experience and a prime example of all three examples of community: camping, rally, and riding. The village this year seemed a little bit smaller, but the willingness of the people to share the work and the resources, to step up when others falter, was still alive. I look forward to the next rally, camping opportunity, and group ride so I can continue to help those in need, and know that if I am the one that needs the help, someone will step up, share their unique talent, and be there for me.

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