



part of National Bike Month

www.walkbiketoschool.org

National Bike to School Day 2014: Climbing to new heights

Thousands of students, families, school staff, law enforcement officers, advocates and many other supporters across the country took off on their bikes pedaling and shifting gears as a part of the third annual National Bike to School Day. In all, 2,222 schools registered Bike to School Day events – a 30% percent increase from 2013!

“We are thrilled to see the success of the third annual Bike to School Day,” said Lauren Marchetti, director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School, which coordinates National Bike to School Day. “Participation for this event continues to grow and is all because of the enthusiasm and commitment of thousands of parents, school administrators, elected officials, students and community leaders.”

Communities across the country celebrated National Bike to School Day by organizing helmet fittings, bicycle skills clinics and trail openings. They rode bicycles, skateboards, roller blades and at least one unicycle. Some communities wanted to show support without biking and so they walked. Regardless of how kids and adults used their feet, it was a day to celebrate traveling under your own steam.

Bike to School Day is a national event that gives communities across the country the opportunity to join together in bicycling to school on the same day. The event, an exciting celebration for those new to the experience as well as those who have been two-wheeling to school for years, is part of the movement for year-round safe routes to school, and encourages bicycling to school as a healthy way for kids and families to make their school commute.

National Bike to School Day adds to the excitement surrounding National Bike Month, led by the League of American Bicyclists each May. Based on the Walk to School Day model, Bike to School Day builds off the 18 years of success of International Walk to School Day. For more information on bike and walk to school activities in the United States, visit www.walkbiketoschool.org.



We had a great turnout! 146 students came out to ride their bikes to school! It was really cool seeing the local police officers leading the kids on their bikes. This was my first Bike to School Day and I am loving the excitement on the community level. Parents, volunteers, and the principal were biking as well.

– Active Routes to School Coordinator, Moore County, NC



Developed by the **National Center for Safe Routes to School**

of the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center and funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation



The decrease of traffic and amount of cars was unbelievable... The Northeast mascot was giving high fives while there was music playing outside when students were arriving. The potential Northeast Elementary has to develop a strong and successful Safe Routes to School Program is exciting!!!

– Event organizer at Northeast Elementary, Kearney, NE



Bike to School Day 2014
Wesley Blount and Victor Mendez kickoff a biking event in DC.

National attention

Recognition for the big day came from national level government officials, media and even celebrities. For the National Bike to School Day roll-out event in Washington D.C.'s Lincoln Park, more than 200 students from a dozen schools came together to celebrate biking. United States Department of Transportation Acting Deputy Secretary, Victor Mendez (pictured far right holding banner), and the Federal Highway Administration's Safe Routes to School Program Manager, Wesley Blount (pictured far left holding banner), helped send off students - some participating in their third Bike to School Day event, some participating for the first time – as they departed from the park in organized bike trains.

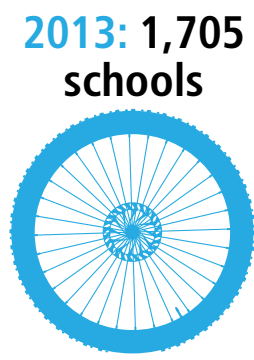
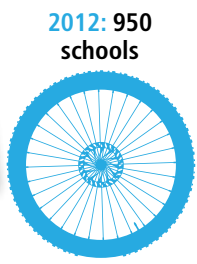
“Every child should have the opportunity to walk, bike or ride the bus to school safely,” said U.S. Transportation

Acting Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez. “Improving bicycle and pedestrian safety is a top priority for the Department, especially as more and more Americans are choosing these options for getting to work, school and other places. The Obama Administration is proud to support National Bike to School Day and encourages families to practice safe biking habits every day.”

Bike to School Day received media attention in communities nationwide. Newspapers, radio stations, and social media buzzed with support of the celebration. Stories from The Denver Post to the Anchorage Public Radio Network highlighted students’ and parents’ excitement for the event. A big name in the entertainment business, Ellen DeGeneres, gave a Bike to School Day shout out on social media, tweeting “It’s Bike to School Day! I’m not headed to school, but I’m tweeting this from the back of Portia’s beach cruiser.”



Here we go!: Bike to School Day participation





National Bike to School Day Helmets on Heads Bikeshare Giveaway

This year the National Center for Safe Routes to School partnered with Schwinn’s Helmets on Heads program for the Bike to School Day Helmets on Heads Bikeshare Giveaway. Nine schools and one resource person each were awarded 10 bikes and 20 helmets in weekly drawings leading up to Bike to School Day and recognizing the close of Bike Month.

Two winners were selected during our Facebook drawing held on Bike to School Day. These schools responded to our Facebook question, “What would your school do with ten bikes and twenty helmets?” Washington Elementary School in Billings, Montana, was selected for their innovative plans to develop a bikeshare lend/lease program in collaboration with local churches, businesses and organizations to assist homeless students in riding to school, activities and nearby parks. The second Facebook winner, Deer Park Elementary School in New Port Richey, Florida, was selected to use their bikes and helmets for students in their special needs program who practice for events in the Special Olympics. We’re very excited to support all of the winning schools and want to congratulate our winners!

“ Timothy Ball enjoyed a successful first ride this year. We were supported with police officers and firefighters on bikes and on the streets to control traffic. Families truly enjoyed the morning!
– Event organizer at Timothy Ball Elementary, Crown Point, Indiana ”



- Timothy Ball Elementary School - Crown Point, Indiana
- Charles Wright School - Wethersfield, Connecticut
- Holy Trinity Elementary School - Bay City, Michigan
- Deerfield Beach Elementary School - Deerfield Beach, Florida
- Lakeshore Middle School - Stevensville, Michigan
- Dolbeare Elementary School - Wakefield, Massachusetts
- Washington Elementary School - Billings, Montana
- Deer Park Elementary School - New Port Richey, Florida
- Coleman Place Elementary School - Norfolk, Virginia
- Region 2 Active Routes to School Program - Marion, N.C.



“ Preparations for this annual event began in April with bike safety classes conducted during regularly scheduled physical education classes at Alderson Elementary. The Bike Safety Educator taught all students how to check a bike for safety, how to ride a bike safely, how to properly fit a bicycle helmet, and many safety tips for biking to school.
 – Event volunteer at Alderson Elementary, Alderson, WV ”

“ All kids grades 2-5 brought bikes or scooters and we rode around the perimeter of the school. K-1 and those without wheels walked on the infield grass. Helmets were required to ride and we were able to provide helmets through a grant for those in need. We rode/walked for 30 minutes.
 – Event organizer at Washington Elementary, Billings, MT ”

“ We had a great time at our event, and all of the planning and hard work paid off when we saw all of the children biking to school. We learned that our local bike shop and bike advocacy groups could really help us, don't forget to use them in all of your future events!
 – Law enforcement officer in Alpharetta, GA ”



See you next year!
 Mark your calendars for Bike to School Day 2015 and 2016:
May 6, 2015
May 4, 2016