



part of National Bike Month

www.walkbiketoschool.org

Shifting into high gear: Bike to School Day 2015

On May 6th, tens of thousands of students across the country, ranging from preschool to college age, biked to school as a part of the fourth annual National Bike to School Day. In all 2,631 schools registered events, setting an all-time high for National Bike to School Day participation.

This year's event welcomed many new schools and communities, with more than one-half of events being held for the first time. Participation grows year after year and has nearly tripled since the first celebration in 2012. City mayors, town officials, school administrators and at least one Governor, Pete Ricketts of Nebraska, joined children and families for their rides to school during Bike Month in May.

"It's exciting to see the range of students and communities joining the National Bike to School Day celebration," said Lauren Marchetti, Director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School, which coordinates National Bike to School Day. "This event helps highlight the importance of physical activity and safe transportation environments, and offers a chance for students and families to come together to celebrate walking and biking to school."

Communities say that they organize Bike to School Day events for several reasons. Three reasons rise to the top:

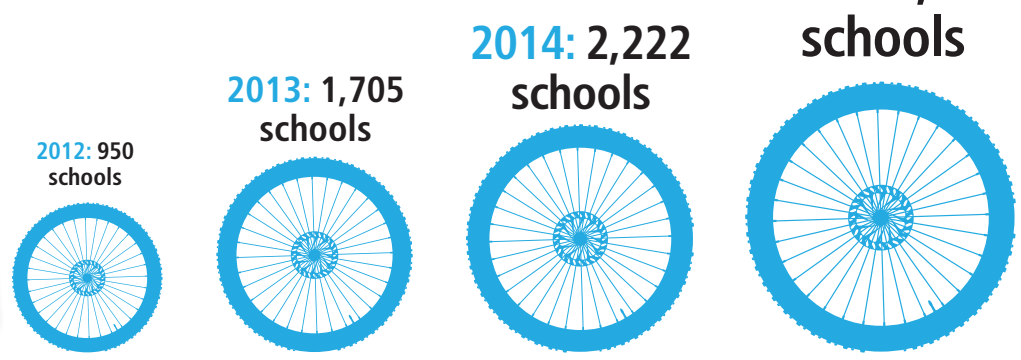
- To raise awareness for pedestrian and bicycling safety
- To encourage students to incorporate walking and bicycling to school in their daily routine
- To build stronger community connections

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 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.



Bike to School Day participation



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

“

We want our students walking and biking to school daily. All kids live within two miles of school. There are sidewalks and yet the vast majority of kids still get to school on our buses or with their parents... We are trying to change our culture to one where commuting by foot or bike is not abnormal.

– St. Albans, VT

”

Bike to School Day across the country

Schools nationwide celebrated Bike to School Day by organizing events with helmet fittings, bike safety skills clinics and bike trains of all different sizes and distances. Some schools celebrated by holding long group bike rides through their neighborhoods and communities, while others held events on the school campus to teach the importance of bicycle safety. Students at Thomas Metcalf Elementary School in Normal, Illinois rode over four miles during their Bike to School Day and children at Cape Fear Elementary School in North Carolina practiced bike safety skills in their school's gym.

Bike to School Day offers schools the opportunity to bring attention to bike safety concerns in their communities. In recognition of Bike to School Day, students at the University of Baltimore gathered members from the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, police department, and campus community to discuss improving conditions for bicyclists in their city. They are in good company; 42% of events were part of ongoing efforts to promote walking and bicycling to school throughout the year.

“

[Bike to School Day] is a great bonding event for our community, staff, and students. I love how it encourages people to be physically active.

– Moose Lake, MN

”





Bike to School Day giveaways

For the second year in a row, 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 Bike Share Giveaway. Ten schools each were awarded 10 bikes and 20 helmets in weekly drawings during Bike Month in May.

The National Center partnered with Sportworks to offer the Bike to School Day Bike Rack Giveaway.

Congratulations to our winning schools:

Schwinn Bike to School Day Helmets on Heads Giveaway winners:

- Seward Elementary School in Auburn, NY
- Woodland Hills Elementary School in Ammon, ID
- Liberty Elementary School in North Ridgeville, OH
- Arrowhead Elementary School in Billings, MO
- Avery Parsons Elementary School in Buena Vista, CO
- Amberlea Elementary School in Phoenix, AZ
- Gene M Reed Elementary School in Allen, TX
- Hernando Excel By 5 in Hernando, MS
- Killarney Elementary School in Winter Park, FL
- Dawson Elementary School in Scotland Neck, NC

Sportworks Bike Rack Giveaway winners:

- Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School in Rock Hill, SC
- Tyler Elementary School in Washington, DC

“ We are a very health conscious school and enjoy events that get the students and staff moving.
– Hartsville, SC ”

“ [Our school organized a Bike to School Day Event to] raise awareness of the fact that we have a biking community within our school and biking routes that surround our school on three sides.
– New York, NY ”



Inspiring change

Bike to School events can help encourage communities to implement policy or engineering changes that make it safer to walk and bike to school. This year, at least three Governors (Michigan, Alaska and Washington) made proclamations in recognition of Bike to School Day or Bike Month. Also in 2015, sixty-nine percent of event organizers indicated that their event had an impact on making a policy or engineering change.

“ We organized a Bike to School/Bike to Work Day to show that getting fit and active can happen at any age.
– Tiffin, OH ”

Top policy or engineering changes

33% of events led to the addition of bicycling/walking promotion to existing school policies (such as a school wellness policy)

30% of events led to the addition of bike racks

27% of events led to the addition of required safety education



See you next year!

Mark your calendars for Bike to School Day 2016 and 2017:

May 4, 2016

May 10, 2017