



part of National Bike Month

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National Bike to School Day 2013: Second Cycling Celebration Sizzles

From all 50 states and the District of Columbia, tens of thousands of school children across the country biked to school on May 8 and throughout the month of May as part of the second annual National Bike to School Day. In all, 1,705 registered Bike to School Day events took place at schools—80 percent more than the inaugural national event in 2012.

In communities across the US, schools focused on health, safety, and fun. For health, events focused on biking to school as a great way for children to get some of their recommended 60 minutes of daily exercise. For safety, schools nationwide organized bike rodeos, bike helmet fittings and bicycling safety instruction as common activities at Bike to School events. For fun, events featured prizes, raffles, poster contests, pep rallies, carnival games, stickers, temporary tattoos, trail openings and ribbon cuttings.

From coast to coast, young students learned that biking to school is a fun way to start their day as they felt the wind in their faces and experienced the world around them.

In March, Bruce Katz of the Brookings Institute told the National Bike Summit that societal trends are favoring bicycling, that at this moment there is a tremendous bicycle wave rolling through America. The success of the second annual Bike to School Day seems to be an indication that Mr. Katz is on to something.

The national event was coordinated by the National Center for Safe Routes to School as a part of the League of American Bicyclists' National Bike Month. Many communities and schools had been holding spring walk and bicycle to school events for years, but National Bike to School Day provided the first opportunity for schools across the country to join together on one special day to celebrate biking.



My daughter is a first grader and she has resisted riding her bike for as long as I have been introducing the idea. But because it was her teachers and classmates that were excited about this event, she insisted that we participate.

And I'm so glad we did because at the end of the bike ride she exclaimed that this was more fun than she had expected it to be, opening the door for us riding bikes in the future!

— Parent at Northwoods Elementary School, Cary, 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



We had a great event! ... We mapped two routes to a central meeting place, a local park, and marked the routes with signs and balloons. Our school mascot, Chompy the Gator, assisted our local Sheriffs with traffic control. Each rider was given a laminated certificate [for their bike], healthy snacks provided by volunteers and great backpacks, reflectors and safety brochures from our local children's hospital community educator.

– Event coordinator at BD Gullett Elementary School, Lakewood Ranch, Fla.



Biking Locally, Thinking Globally

The tens of thousands of school children participating in Bike to School Day this year made a further connection than just their trip from home to school. They also connected to an international movement called Global Youth Traffic Safety Month, an effort to engage and empower youth across the globe to develop and implement youth peer to peer education projects, support increased enforcement of traffic laws and advocate for stronger laws to protect young people on the roads.

This global connection was evident at the National Bike to School Day roll-out event in Washington, DC's Lincoln Park. More than 100 young students from a dozen different schools came together at the park to celebrate Bike to School Day, be checked for helmet fit and begin their

morning rides. Each also received a bike placard featuring a map of the world highlighting the 15 countries participating in Global Youth Traffic Safety Month, and filled those placards with stickers depicting the flags of each of those countries.

As the national dignitary at the event, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez (photo at top left) passed up the chance to make a speech in favor of sending off bike trains, handing out flag stickers and mingling with the students and parents biking to school.

National partner organizations joining the National Center for Safe Routes to School in connecting Bike to School Day 2013 with Global Youth Traffic Safety Month included:

- Global Road Safety Partnership
- League of American Bicyclists
- National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS)
- President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition
- Safe Kids Worldwide
- Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- Saris Racks

Many thanks to DC Safe Routes to School Coordinator Jennifer Hefferan of the District Department of Transportation and volunteer Sandra Moscoso-Mills for organizing the roll-out event in the nation's capitol.





Bike Rack Giveaway Back for Second Year

The National Center for Safe Routes to School and Saris Cycling Group teamed up again in 2013 to bring back the popular Bike Rack Giveaway contest.

All registered events and resource people were automatically entered to win a free-standing bike rack for a school. Ten schools won new Saris bike racks in seven weekly drawings held in the lead up to Bike to School Day and in three more drawings held at the end of May when event registration officially ended. The winning schools included:

- Valley View Elementary School of Great Falls, Montana
- Don Pedro Elementary School of Ceres, California
- Cherry Avenue Elementary School of West Sayville, New York
- Glebe Elementary School of Arlington, Virginia
- Sunrise Elementary School of Albany, Oregon
- Hawthorn Elementary School of Elmhurst, Illinois
- El Marino Language School of Culver City, California
- Dunn Elementary School of Sparks, Nevada
- Malletts Bay School of Colchester, Vermont
- University Park Elementary School of Denver, Colorado

“So stoked! The school has worked so hard on their monthly Walk ‘n Roll program, that this will be beautiful reward. What a way to end the school year.”

– Event coordinator at El Marino Language School, Culver City, Calif., on the school winning the Saris bike rack

Denver School Uses Saris Rack to Honor SRTS Champion



University Park Elementary School in Denver, Colorado, turned their Saris bike rack win into an opportunity to honor a local Safe Routes to School champion, Mary Myers.

“Ms. Myers was instrumental in creating safe routes for children to walk, bike, skate and scooter to school in the University Park community,” said Timothy Hernández, librarian and Bike to School Day coordinator at University Park Elementary.

The bike rack, with a plaque recognizing Ms. Myers, was dedicated in a ceremony on October 9, 2013.

“The bike rack has been a tremendous addition to our learning landscape,” said Mr. Hernández. “The school is very grateful to Katie Bonomo of Transportation Solutions, who won the Saris bike rack in the drawing for registered resource people and designated it to University Park Elementary, and also provided the plaque.”



“ National Bike to School Day at our school was a resounding success. More than 100 children (a quarter of the school’s population!), parents and staff members biked or walked to school... Their enthusiasm and joy should go a long way in helping these alternative means of transportation become mainstream for many of them.

– Event coordinator at Crane Elementary School, Henrietta, NY

“ We had two bike trains line up at predetermined locations and ride back to school. Students, staff, parents, grandparents and siblings all joined in the fun. A greeting station was set up and provided water and healthy snacks for the riders. The bike rack was overflowing! Free helmets were provided for those in need. The overwhelming response was “we should do this more often!”

– School nurse at Dr. Norman W. Crisp Elementary School, Nashua, NH

“ We had 38 children bike to school [in conjunction with] an all-day Health and Safety Fair for the students. We had stations for many things such as bike safety, emergency preparedness, seatbelt safety, pet safety. It was a wonderful day!

– Event coordinator at Bremen Elementary School, Bremen, Ohio

A Day That Can Last All Year

64%* of event organizers reported that their Bike to School Day event was a part of an ongoing bicycle program.

70%* of event organizers said that their event was part of a Safe Routes to School program.

* Of event organizers who knew whether or not their event was part of an ongoing bicycle program (n=1165) or a SRTS program (n=1165).

