



The National News!

REI Supports 2005 National Conference

Trips for Kids Chapters

There are 42 chapters in the following US states and Canadian territories:

- British Columbia
- California
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- North Carolina
- New Mexico
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Saskatchewan
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington D.C.
- West Virginia

On April 6, Trips for Kids National (TFK) was presented with a \$9,000 grant from REI to support the organization’s efforts to engage underprivileged youth in outdoor recreation and stewardship. REI has supported the development of the TFK National program since its inception in 1999, by providing an annual grant to assist in the start-up of new chapters and holding of an annual conference. This year the money will go directly towards the 4th Annual Trips for Kids National Conference.

provides us with the opportunity to acknowledge the important work our current chapters are doing.”

On November 4,5 & 6, directors from up to 42 TFK chapters around the US and Canada will convene in Marin, California for the annual conference. The 3 days will be spent sharing ideas, building knowledge, and experiencing the beautiful mountain biking trails of Marin.

“We’re thrilled to once again receive the REI grant, which will enable us to undertake our conference,” said Trips for Kids National Program Coordinator Karen Steele. “It plays a crucial role in the development of new and existing TFK chapters throughout the US & Canada, enabling us to reach out to more and more underprivileged kids within our communities. It also



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PAL Joins Trips for Kids

In March, the Norristown Police Athletics League became the first PAL organization to join together with Trips for Kids! With the mission of Norristown PAL being to provide youth with a structured program of recreational, educational and cultural activities in a socially conscious manner, TFK sees them as the perfect organization to partner with.

Brett Wells, Director of Norristown PAL shares his enthusiasm. “We are very excited to begin our new partnership with TFK. This is a great opportunity for us to expose youth to the healthy benefits of bicycling while also utilizing the resources of the Norristown Police Department’s Bicycle Patrol Division. This will go a long way towards our goal of fostering (continued on page 3)

New Chapter Spotlight



TFK Laurel Highlands Director, Bill Davis will share his love of mountain biking with underprivileged youth in his community.

TFK Laurel Highlands

TFK Laurel Highlands officially became a Trips for Kids chapter in February, 2005 as a result of a partnership between Trips For Kids and the Mountain Watershed Association. Bill Davis is the program director for TFK Laurel Highlands and the environmental education specialist at the Mountain Watershed Association. Bill was looking for a new way to make environmental education a hands on experience instead of the traditional classroom setting. "I believe children will be more enthused about learning if they are also having fun."

The Laurel Highlands region is largely rural with many families living at or below the poverty level. Bill states that "too many children who don't have bikes or someone to ride with because both parents are working live in the Laurel Highlands." The region is home to multiple State Parks and State Forests that makes it a mountain bike heaven. The development of TFK Laurel Highlands will now make exploring this beautiful wilderness available to youth who would otherwise never get the chance.

Start your own TFK Chapter!

Do you see a need in your community to give more kids access to the beauty of the outdoors? All of our chapters were started by dedicated individuals who recognized this need. They saw that there were kids who rarely had the chance to get outside and experience the world from a different perspective. Each chapter is an independent organization; all working towards the common goal of changing kids' lives by sharing the joy of mountain biking.

By starting a Trips for Kids Chapter in your area, you can help fill a need as well. Our goal at **Trips for Kids National** is to provide the moral and physical support to help you develop a local chapter. We have a strong network of individuals who have already gone through the process and are willing to help. Along with 5 bikes and other equipment, we are happy to share our 16 years of experience with you.

The "How-To" Manual, which covers the detailed aspects of creating and sustaining a ride program is available for \$20 (to cover the costs of printing and shipping.) Please order by sending a check and request to *Trips for Kids, 138 Sunnyside, Mill Valley, CA 94941.*

There is a wealth of information on our web site. Please visit us at www.tripsforkids.org for more information, or call our National office on 415-459-2817 to discuss the details of your specific situation.

We look forward to working with you!



2005 Sponsor Thanks

On behalf of our TFK Chapters, Volunteers, Kids and Staff we would like to thank our generous sponsors **REI, Trek, Clif, Adventure Medical Kits and Park Tools** for their continued support in 2005. Their support is crucial to our success in continuing to get more and more kids out on bikes.

We would also like to thank **Inter-**

bike, New Belgium Brewery and Bikes Aren't Bad for once again selecting TFK National as a beneficiary of their generous annual grants.

Donated Goods

TFK National would like to recognize the biking and outdoor industry for continuing to donate overstocked product to help support the Recy-

TFK at Sea Otter Classic & Big Sur Ride

Trips for Kids was represented at the Sea Otter Classic bicycle race in April, one of the biggest mountain bike events in the country. We will also be a charity of the Big Sur Ride on September 24 & 25 in California. The events give Trips for Kids a chance to inform others of our program.

At the Sea Otter Classic, Trips for Kids had a table which enabled us to talk to many people about the possibility of starting a TFK Chapter in their community. We also sold merchandise from our shop, which is generously donated to us from the bike industry and community, to raise funds to support our national program. Kids from our TFK Marin earn-a-bike program came

down to spend some time with the Trek team.

As a charity of the Big Sur Ride we will receive a donation from the proceeds raised by the event, which will go towards enhancing our program. We are also featured on their website at



PAL joins Trips for Kids

(continued from page 1)
positive relationships between local youth and law enforcement.”

The affiliation of TFK and Norristown PAL represents just another way in which the police force will utilize bicycling as a way to benefit

the community. Already, police officers are often seen patrolling our streets on bikes. By partnering with TFK, they will now have the opportunity to share the joy of biking with disadvantaged youth in their area. TFK hopes to get more PAL organizations on board soon!



**A PUBLICATION OF TRIPS
FOR KIDS**

610 4th Street
San Rafael, CA 94901
Phone: 415-459-2817
Email: tfknatl@pacbell.net



Mail to:

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.TRIPSFORKIDS.ORG

Support Trips For Kids



**TFK Fox Valley puts a smile
on everyone's face!**

YES! I want to get kids off the couch and in the saddle by supporting Trips for Kids!

Here's my tax-deductible contribution:

- \$25** - Provides a "How To" manual to a new director.
- \$50** - Buys 10 helmets for a new chapter.
- \$150** - Buys one bike to be used over and over by different kids.
- \$250** - Provides the tools necessary to start one chapter.
- Other** \$ _____ - The sky's the limit with your help!

Major contributions can help us increase our chapter base and the amount of support and equipment for existing chapters. Feel free to contact us to find out more about how your contribution can make a difference in the lives of children all across North America.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (w) _____ Phone (h) _____

E-mail _____