



The National News!

Environmental Education Out on the Trail

Trips for Kids Chapters

There are 45 chapters in the following US states and Canadian territories:

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

Many instructors find that teaching environmental science on the trail is more effective than in the classroom.

Our Laurel Highlands Chapter has been teaching environmental educational on their rides since they came on board earlier this year. Bill Davis is the chapter leader and he is also an environmental education specialist for the Indian Creek Watershed Association. Bill stops with the kids at a creek to discuss what factors make a stream healthy or sick. He also stops at a water treatment plant to describe how drainage from a mining area must be processed, in order to keep the creek healthy. These lessons have greater immediacy when the kids can stick their hand in the stream and see the cause and effect relationship between human use of natural resources and its impact on nature.

Every Corner - A Teachable Moment

By Dennis Guikema, School Director, Oasis High School, Oakland

Sitting on a rock on the San Francisco Bay shoreline in China Camp State Park, Jose looked over at me and said, simply, "Thanks." Then he looked back at the Bay and breathed deeply. We were only a few dozen miles and a bridge away from our homes in East Oakland, but it felt as though we were in another world. Marin is a place that most of my students rarely, if ever, visit. Jose is one of hundreds of students I've taken from Oakland to Marin to ride with Trips for Kids over the past eleven years.

The schools at which I've worked, as a teacher and director, are all small, public, and alternative. They serve students who

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TFK New Bedford Goes to Washington

Bike for the Bayou

On Saturday, October 1st, the TFK Chapter in New Bedford, Massachusetts, sponsored a family ride as a fundraiser for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The chapter's goal is to take its fleet of Trek mountain bikes and its veteran ride leaders to Otis Air Force Base to provide some much-needed recreation and physical activity to the kids now residing there. (Although the date was chosen to coincide with IMBA's Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day on Saturday, TFK New Bedford recommends that a family event be held instead on a Sunday, in order to not conflict with kids' other sports ac-

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New Chapters

TFK Kingdom Trials, East Burke, Vermont. Director: Tim Tierney. Located in the Northeastern corner of Vermont, they provide recreational and educational activities while working to conserve natural resources. Activities include trail building in one of the nation's largest wilderness trail networks.

TFK StraightAhead Academy, Westboro, Massachusetts. Director: Scott Larsen. StraightAhead provides social services to juvenile offenders while they are in institutions and after they are released back into society. Many of their bike rides will be conducted in and around their recently purchased re-entry facility.

TFK Anaheim PAL, Anaheim, California. Director: Amador Nunez. We're happy to welcome our second PAL chapter. The Police Athletic/Activities League sponsors baseball, basketball, boxing, and now, bicycling for at-risk kids in the Anaheim area.

TFK New Bedford

activities). The chapter reports however, that in addition to raising the funds necessary to cover expenses, the event resulted in significant public awareness through the distribution of over 3,000 flyers through the regional school district, a regional bank and the YMCA. In order to obtain help in gaining access to the secure Air Force Base, JoAnn Clarke, the chapter president, recently traveled to Washington, DC to meet with the staff of Congressman Barney Frank, who wholeheartedly endorsed TFK and its purpose. His staff in turn, has elicited the support of Rep. William Delahunt, within whose district the base is located. Both Congressmen are now working through the "red tape" on TFKs' behalf. Let the rides begin!

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 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 18 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 also a wealth of information on our web site for free. 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, and Kids we would like to thank sponsors **REI, Trek, Clif, Adventure Medical Kits** and **Park Tools** for their continued support in 2005. Their support is crucial to our success in getting more and more kids out on bikes. We would also like to thank **Interbike, New Belgium Brewery** and **Maverick** for once again selecting TFK National as a beneficiary of their generous annual grants.

The bike press has also helped us greatly with pro bono ads, and we thank **Mountain Bike, Bicycling, Dirt Rag, Bicycle Retailer, and League of American Bicyclists** for their support.

Finally, TFK National would like to recognize the biking industry for continuing to donate overstocked product to help support the Recyclery, Trips for Kids' bike thrift shop. Thank you all!

Environmental Ed., Con't

model schools. Exposing youth to the outdoors and making learning engaging and relevant are core elements of our work. And Trips for Kids has been an invaluable resource and ally in this. Trips for Kids makes it possible, affordable, and even easy to bring my students to the trails, forests, and shoreline of Marin County. A day of fresh air and exercise would be enough reason to don our helmets and gloves and pedal down the trails; but it is the educational and community-building rewards we receive on a Trips for Kids excursion that strengthen our minds and spirits as well as our muscles.

Every corner presents another teachable moment. In this context students are eager to learn and the combined knowledge of Trips for Kids' staff and volunteers, our school's staff, and our students is a veritable rolling encyclopedia. There is obviously a different quality of interaction on a bicycle saddle or the sand of Tennessee Valley Beach than in a classroom.

On Trips for Kids outings I really get to know my students, and they get to know a different and fuller side of me. They discover new interests and strengths amongst each other. Last year, my school capitalized on this by sending each advisory group on a trip during the first trip during the first two weeks of school. This was a central part of our orientation and the results were tangible: greater trust and respect, a commitment to shared responsibility, and a strengthened esprit de corps. Trips for Kids has been eager to weave bike rides into our curriculum. On one ride my English students packed journals and pens into backpacks besides their lunches. A science class brought a volunteer naturalist along on another ride. Every ride has infinite "teachable moments" when students, school staff, and TFK staff and volunteers share questions and information. On behalf of the students and families I have served, I want to thank all involved with Trips for Kids for providing so many memories!

HELP WITH HELMETS

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association has a full program on Helmet safety, including photos, brochures, cartoons, and kids' entertainment (coloring) worksheets available through their website: www.helmets.org. You can reach them at: (703) 486-0100.



A PUBLICATION OF TRIPS
FOR KIDS

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Email: tfknatl@pacbell.net



Mail To:

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.TRIPSFORKIDS.ORG

Support Trips For Kids



TFK Marin kids having a
great time!!

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.

Double your money through your employer's matching funds program where possible!

Checks can be made payable to Trips for Kids, and sent to Trips for Kids National, 138 Sunnyside, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (w) _____ Phone (h) _____

E-mail _____

