



The National News!

Trips for Kids Chapters

There are 45 chapters in the US and Canada

Alberta

Arizona

British Columbia

California

Colorado

Georgia

Illinois

Kentucky

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

New Mexico

New York

North Carolina

Nova Scotia

Pennsylvania

Saskatchewan

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Vermont

Virginia

Washington

Washington, D.C.

West Virginia

Charlotte Chapter Adds Earn-a-Bike Program

Earn-a-Bike programs can be a perfect compliment to a chapter's Ride Program. The Charlotte Chapter of Trips for Kids (TFK) opened their Recyclery in March and is now in full swing. Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation for the Carolinas, they have a paid part-time coordinator who leads two Earn-A-Bike (EAB) classes a week for youth 10-15 years old. They are also in the process of starting an EAB program through Urban Ministry for homeless adults.

Each EAB course meets two hours a week for six weeks. During the first two weeks, kids learn the anatomy of the bicycle, how to perform a safety check, and how to change a flat tire. In week three, kids choose their bikes. For the last three weeks, the kids build and repair their own steeds and learn the art of bicycle mechanics. On the last day of class, the kids are awarded their bikes and go for a celebratory ride on the nearby Little Sugar Creek

greenway. Each graduate receives a lock, helmet, and lights to go with their "new" bike.

Their ultimate goal is to help nurture a growing bike culture in Charlotte. Their Bike Recyclery also operates as a co-op, providing member benefits such as access to the tools, discounts on purchases, mechanics classes, and opportunities to purchase parts and accessories with earned credits.

Director Keith Sorensen is excited about this new venture and encourages any other chapters to give it a try. His advice, "Start small and do what you can. Since we started, many people have stepped forward to help."

They have found what more chapters are discovering: when word spreads, generous and talented folks come forward and give of themselves for the sheer satisfaction of being a part of something they believe in.

Chapters Divide and Multiply

With the formation of Trips for Kids National in 1999, the number of youth we are taking on mountain bike adventures is jumping exponentially. At the time of printing, there are 46 Trips for Kids chapters across North American with more in the pipeline. Together, these chapters reach over 5,400 underserved kids each year.

In seven years, our chapters have made incredible and inspiring accomplishments. Local communities are embracing the TFK model and offering vital support: volunteers, donations of equipment and facilities, money, access to awesome trails, and of course the magical ingredient – KIDS!

The path to forming a chapter is as unique as the chapters themselves. Like the first three chapters in our new chapter spotlight on the next page, there is an exciting trend of chapters breeding new chapters. For an up-to-date listing of our chapters and a link to their web sites, visit www.tripsforkids.org

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PRODUCT SPONSORS



New Chapter Spotlights

Spin-off Chapters

Trips for Kids Prince George's County, Maryland. Director: Ken Scott. Headquartered in the town of Mount Rainier Maryland, the Prince George's County chapter continues the TFK tradition of serving at-risk youth through mountain bike rides and health and safety education. Working with the city of Mount Rainer, TFK PGC created the Mt Rainier Bike Coop. As a safe haven for children and adults to come and work on bicycles on weekends, the Coop has been awarded a community excellence award from the State of Maryland. The countywide program has already worked with children in the communities of Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Riverdale, and Hyattsville.

Trips for Kids Calgary, Alberta Canada. Director: Rick McFerran. TFK Calgary is part of Two Wheel View, a nonprofit that connects young people throughout North America to the social, cultural, and physical environments of the world through bicycle adventures. Their programs are for underserved, at-risk youth and include local mountain bike rides and environmental education, overnight camping and service learning projects, and mountain bike touring to remote international destinations.

Trips for Kids RFK West, MA. Director: Sean Hayes. RFK West is our third Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps chapter. RFK West works with three programs: 1) Experiment With Travel located in **Holyoke, MA** which serves emotionally challenged youth, 2) South Hadley Girls Treatment Program in **South Hadley, MA** for at risk young women, and 3) White Street Group Home in **Springfield, MA** for boys in transition within the Department of Social Services who face a variety of emotional, behavioral, and educational challenges.

Totally New Chapters

TFK Provo, Community Action Youth Program, Provo, Utah. Director: Jen Nibley. Community Action Youth Program provides mentor support and essential skills training to help low-income youth resist negative peer pressure and become self-reliant adults. Bike rides and hikes in the beautiful mountains of Utah will be incorporated with current activities.

TFK Tacoma, WA. Director: Andrew Wilcox. The second TFK chapter in Washington State is part of Tacoma Center YMCA and located in historic downtown area. Mountain biking will take the city kids out of town and compliment a Y branch that is quickly becoming the HUB of Tacoma.

TFK Yarmouth, Nova Scotia Canada. Director: Jack Harding. With the addition of this chapter on this lovely Atlantic seaside community, TFK now stretches from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean in Canada. Jack has garnered a lot of excitement and energy for this new venture. They are "thrilled to be able to offer this type of experience to the youth of Yarmouth who would normally not get a chance to participate in this type of activity." He offers this advice, "For those of you who are reading this and may be interested in starting your own TFK Chapter.....just do it! It is one of the most rewarding experiences as a cyclist you will ever have!"

2006 Sponsor Thanks

On behalf of all the TFK Chapters, volunteers, and kids, we would like to thank our generous sponsors: **Adventure Medical Kits, Big Sur Ride, Clif Bar, Ink Monkey Wearable Graphics, Interbike, Maverick, New Belgium Brewing, Park Tool USA, Planet Bike, Quality Bicycle Products (QBP), REI, and Trek.**

The bike press has also helped us greatly with pro bono ads. We thank **Bicycling Magazine, Mountain Bike Magazine, Dirt Rag, Bicycle Retailer & Industry News, Velo News, and**

League of American Bicyclists for their support.

We are most grateful for the cycling industry's continued donation of overstocked items to our Re-Cyclery Bike Thrift Shop in San Rafael, CA. Proceeds from the thrift shop help support our national work.

The support of each sponsor is crucial to our success in getting more kids on bikes. **THANKS to you all!**

Sponsor News

REI Encourages Local Store Support

TFK National received a \$5,000 grant from REI to encourage the connection between our chapters and REI stores. Local REI stores have long provided technical support, volunteers, gear, tools, and grants to many TFK chapters. With 21 of our chapters within 50 miles of an REI store, we like to see this alliance continue.

Since this support can be a huge boost over the initial hurdles of starting a chapter, we are promoting more new chapters within 50 miles of REI stores. Additionally, chapters are encouraged to incorporate REI's PEAK Program (Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids) where possible.

Park Tool Ad

TFK Director Marilyn Price was chosen as one of Park Tool's Bicycle Blue Bloods for their 2006 ad campaign. This year they honored six people throughout the cycling industry with full page photos in their ads. Park Tool has been a valuable sponsor of Trips for Kids since 1991. Look for their ad to appear in Bicycling, Mt. Bike, Velo News, and BIKE and perhaps other publications.

Awesome Photographers

Sterling Lorence from Vancouver, B.C. is gaining fame as one of the brilliant photographers of mountain biking. Take a look at some of his work on www.sterlinglorence.com and you'll see why his work is published in most major cycling magazines. Sterling has been a great asset and volunteer for Trips for Kids Vancouver. At this year's Sea Otter Classic, Sterling donated 12 large mountain bike photographs at an auction for a bike movie premier. These popular prints sold with the proceeds going to TFK.

Professional photographer **Markham Johnson** not only took the photos for the Park Tool ad, but also donated his compensation to Trips for Kids. What a guy! As a long time Trips for Kids volunteer, Markham has taken many of the photos we use in our web site, newsletters, and publications. He's a valuable part of our team. Visit his work at www.markhamjohnson.com.

FINANCIAL DONORS



Volume 6 Issue 1



MEDIA SPONSORS



What the Kids Say...

TFK Flagstaff took seven refugees children from Zaire on a bike ride on Campbell Mesa: As one girl climbed out of the van, she stretched and remarked, "What's that smell?" The social worker replied, "That's fresh air!" Later as they traversed the single-track, one boy jumped off his bike and started dancing in the middle of the trail. When asked what he was doing, he exclaimed, "This is the best thing I have ever done!" That day the kids saw their first jack rabbit and rode their first single-track; but most importantly, they got to escape the city life, enjoy the outdoors, and bask in each others' laughter.

TFK New Bedford shared these comments from the kids' exit interviews:

- "I liked that we went to different places and met different people and made new friends and learning fun at the same time."
- "If you join the program, you'll have a great time. This is the best place I have ever been."
- "I hope that I can come here every year and that it never, ever ends."

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 saw that there were kids who rarely had a chance to get outside and experience the world of nature. While each chapter is an independent organization, all chapters are working towards the common goal of changing kids' lives through the joy of cycling. By starting a Trips for Kids Chapter in your area, you can help fill a need as well.

The 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 a start-up set of five bikes and other necessary equipment, we are happy to share our 18 years of experience with you.

Our "How-To" Manual, which covers the detailed aspects of forming and sustaining a ride program is available for \$20 (this includes shipping.) These can be ordered by simply 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. Visit us at www.tripsforkids.org or call our National office at 415-459-2817 to discuss the details of your specific situation. **We look forward to working with you!**

Trail Tails - Victor's View

By Director Andrew Goodwillie, TFK Denver, CO

I believe one of the major benefits of Trips for Kids Denver's mountain biking program is giving urban children the opportunity to make personal connections to the beautiful, natural environments of Colorado. My theory is that most of the children we work with grow up in Central Denver and rarely, if ever, have the opportunity to experience the wild, natural side of Colorado.

A recent ride with a spunky group of eighth graders from I Have a Dream Foundation provided proof to my theory. I stopped the bike train to enjoy the panoramic scene from the top of Mt. Falcon, an open meadow in the foreground with

sweeping views of Metro Denver and the Front Range behind. I pointed out Downtown Denver, 25 miles away in the afternoon haze. The kids started pointing too and proclaimed honestly, "Look, there's my house!" As we were about to press on, Victor, a little guy as wide as he is tall asked, "Are we still in Colorado?"

His question might have been a simple request for geographic information, but to me, it seemed more like a revelation that his home state was a place very different than he previously understood. TFKD strives daily to give children like Victor the opportunity to discover new possibilities and perspectives in life.

Events Attended

Bicycle Leadership Conference

In January, Director Marilyn Price attended the Bicycle Leadership Conference for industry in Tempe Arizona. She served on a panel discussion about getting kids on bikes. It was good for Trips for Kids to be recognized by the leaders of the bicycle industry as an example of a program doing good work with kids.

Sea Otter Bicycle Classic

Trips for Kids representatives spent three days at the Sea Otter bicycle race selling items from our Re-Cyclery bicycle thrift shop to raise money for TFK National. Not only did we raise funds but we made some promising contacts with the cycling industry.

Big Sur Ride September 23 & 24, 2006

Once more Trips for Kids has been chosen as the charity for The Big Sur Ride in Carmel Valley. The ride is a spectacular two-day, 170-mile ride that includes 11,100 feet of climbing. For information on the ride go to www.cypressgroup.org/bigsur.htm.

Tour of California

Trips for Kids was honored to be a participant and beneficiary of the first Tour of California in February 2006. The kick off stage was in Sausalito, where the race snaked its way through the Marin Headlands and the backyard of TFK Marin.

"In a time of anxiety and danger, and in the midst of global problems whose enormity can be overwhelming indeed, philanthropy—the love of mankind—is an antidote. We invite you to help others as they introduce young people to mountain biking and healthy living" -- Barbara Harman, Harmon Family Foundation, about TFK Metro DC



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Mail To:

Large empty rectangular box for mailing the form, with a green grid border on the right and bottom sides.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.TRIPSFORKIDS.ORG**

Support Trips For Kids



Trips for Kids puts a smile on everyone's face!

YES! I want to get kids outdoors and on a bike by supporting Trips for Kids!

Here's my tax-deductible contribution:

- \$25** - Provides a "How To" manual to a new chapter 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 help us increase the amount of support and equipment we provide new and existing chapters. We encourage you to contact us and find out how your contribution can make a difference in the lives of children across North America.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____