



# The National News!

## Our First Overseas Chapter and Over 60 Total!

### Trips for Kids Chapters

There are 65 chapters in the US and Canada, and internationally

- Alberta
- Arizona
- British Columbia
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- Nova Scotia
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Saskatchewan
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- Washington, D.C.
- West Virginia
- Israel

In September, we signed on our first chapter outside North America which takes our organization overseas! Located in Beit Shemesh, Israel, our newest chapter will take Yehuda Plains youth on the ride of their lives. And that's not all. In just nine years, Trips for Kids has passed the sixty chapter mark! Together these 65 chapters take over 8,500 underserved youth on mountain bike adventures each year.

While the communities served by each Trips for Kids chapter are unique, the youth share a common need – they are low-income kids facing an array of personal challenges. Most youth live in the inner city, some live on reservations, and others are in treatment or intervention programs.

Chapters themselves vary in size and structure. Some chapters operate through organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs,

cycling clubs, and schools. Several chapters evolved from community service agencies, shelters, and youth centers committed to serving underprivileged kids. Impassioned individuals run others. In addition, we've teamed up with the Police Athletics/Activities League (PAL) and International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) who promote the formation of TFK chapters among their members. TFK was a prominent participant in the 2008 IMBA World Summit. See the article on pg. 5.

This incredible growth would not have been possible without the generous support of the cycling industry. Each chapter receives a start-up set of bikes, tools, etc. from our sponsors. TFK staff provide support and guidance on setting up a chapter and leading safe and successful rides. Thanks to everyone for helping us go global!

## Trips for Kids Celebrates 20 years



### Robin Williams Joins TFK for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Trips for Kids recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a gala fundraising event in Mill Valley, CA. Honorary Board Member Robin Williams attended to show his support and mingle with fellow cyclists, including mountain bike pioneer and fellow board member Gary

Fisher. Gary Sjoquist, Director of Advocacy for Quality Bicycle Products (QBP), and Jeff Stork, President of TFK Twin Cities, also flew in to attend. Founding Director Marilyn Price said, "We were excited to see Robin and so many of our long time supporters. Their message to us is always - 'Keep up the good work.' With the money we raised and the support we felt, we are ready to launch Trips for Kids into the next 20 years!" The memorable event was TFK's most successful fundraiser to date. Good job everyone, and special thanks to all of our generous supporters who made this event possible!

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# New Chapter Spotlights

## Welcome Newest TFK Chapters



Photos by Doug Long

**TFK Israel – SRBC** (The Samson Riders Bicycle Club) is a not for profit voluntary organization whose mission is to advance environmental and social issues connected to biking in the Yehuda Plains and Greater Beit Shemesh area of Israel.

**TFK Arizona's Children Association**, Prescott, Arizona is located in north central Arizona. This chapter provides multiple activities for children with behavioral health issues who are enrolled with Arizona's Children Association. Its mission is to protect children and preserve families.

**TFK Leadville** in Leadville, Colorado is a program run by volunteers, many of whom are school teachers. The City of Leadville is blessed with an abundance of public lands and lots of children who do not have a chance to explore these surroundings.

**TFK Southern Colorado** is located in Pueblo, Colorado. Pedal Paradise, Inc., a recycling retail venture that provides youth with training, has a dual mission: to provide youth and adult development opportunities in Colorado and promote environmental stewardship and the development of bike trails.

**TFK Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley Bike Club**, located in Grants Pass, Oregon, introduces mountain bike riding to kids in the Rogue Valley for outdoor recreation and competitive racing. They provide a year round positive, safe place for all kids, helping them build self-esteem and develop skills to become responsible citizens.

**TFK Taos** is located in Arroyo Seco, New Mexico. The Field Institute of Taos has offered outdoor education programs focused on active, hands-on learning experiences since 1996. Utilizing the local outdoor environment, it runs summer camps and after-school mountain bike sessions. In addition, Team F.I.Taos is a local cycling team encompassing all ages and abilities. All of these programs have a strong mentorship component encouraging youth and adults to share their knowledge and support each other.

**TFK Salt Lake City** is operated by the Salt Lake City Bicycle Collective, a non-profit organization promoting cycling through education and various bicycle related programs. TFK SLC is teaming up with various local youth programs to make sure all kids have a chance to experience mountain biking and the beauty of the local mountains.

**TFK Triangle** in Durham, North Carolina is located just outside the capital of North Carolina. TFKT provides mountain biking outings to the Triangle's fragile youth. The chapter gears its operations towards local school systems, where local middle schools create a school "sub" chapter for fragile students. Started by a public school teacher, one of the goals of the chapter is to turn the "talk" of education into "action."

**TFK Spectrum** 'Trips for Kids Spectrum' is affiliated with Spectrum Youth and Family Services in Burlington, Vermont. Spectrum works with homeless, foster, and high-risk youth to help them navigate a successful transition to a productive adulthood. Spectrum provides a continuum of services to youth and families including *Spectrum One Stop*, an emergency youth shelter, health clinic and drop-in center; transitional living program for youth in State custody; Education Program; Mentor Program, JOBS and more.

**Trips for Kids Southern Arizona** in Tucson, Arizona values healthy lifestyles, the need to protect and appreciate our environment, and empowering youth to take personal responsibility for their lives and their community.

## 2008 Sponsor Thanks

We could not serve the kids without the help of our sponsors.

The following sponsors have donated product much needed by our new and existing chapters: **Adventure Medical Kits, Clif Bar, Gary Fisher Mountain Bikes, Giant Bicycle, Ink Monkey Wearable Graphics, Park Tool USA, Planet Bike, and Trek.**

**SmartWool, New Belgium Brewing Company, and Interbike** made generous financial contributions. **Ecogear** promoted purchase of their backbags to our volunteers, and all purchase donations were turned over to TFK. And **QBP** provided the registration fee for our chapters to attend the IMBA Summit.

The **Clif Bar Family Foundation** arranged for purchases of On Your Behalf gift cards to be donated to Trips for Kids.

The following bike press help us tremendously with ads and articles: **Bicycling Magazine, Bicycle Retailer & Industry News, Bike Culture Magazine, Dirt Rag, League of American Bicyclists, Mountain Flyer, Momentum, Mountain Bike Magazine, and Velo News.**

Special appreciation goes to **Chip Smith and Soar Communications** for distributing all of our national press releases. Thanks to Chip, our press coverage has increased exponentially!

## Funding Opportunities

### REI Goes the Distance for TFK

#### TFK Charlotte & Utah Valley Get Great REI Grants

Paula Fricke at TFK Charlotte says, of the Youth Outdoors Legacy Fund (YOLF), "We had been asked by YOLF to apply for a \$15,000 grant. The grants were announced a couple of weeks ago and we did not get it. However, YOLF referred our grant to REI to see if there was anything they could do. After a phone conversation with REI, we learned they were giving us the \$15,000 for the grant. We plan to work with the Charlotte Trailblazers and other groups in Charlotte to build mountain biking trails in the Lakewood Community, an inner-city neighborhood where most all of their 10-15 year old kids have ridden with us and have earned a bike in our Earn-A-Bike Program. They have some gorgeous wooded property that the kids wanted to build trails on and we're now going to make that a reality thanks to REI! This follows getting an REI grant just a few months ago for 13 brand new mountain bikes for our Ride Program. Needless to say, we think REI is the top company in the country."

And...

**Trips for Kids Utah Valley** was awarded a \$10,000 grant from REI. TFK Utah Valley had applied for a \$5,000 grant, but REI headquarters invited them to double their request and re-submit a budget. The \$10,000 helped provide 12 new bikes (three are full suspension) and cash for bike storage, equipment, promotional items and certifications/trainings.

## Interbike

For the past nineteen years, Trips for Kids has been attending the Interbike trade show to inform attendees of our programs and solicit donations to stock our bicycle thrift shop. Since the development of our national program in 1999, TFK has had a booth on the Interbike Advocacy Row and each year chapter representatives help staff the booth. We are able to reach people who want to develop a Trips for Kids chapter, and network with other advocates. Booth space is generously donated by Interbike. Thanks, Interbike for providing such a valuable contribution to the bicycle advocates!

## FINANCIAL DONORS



**interbike**



**ecogear**



## PRODUCT SPONSORS



## What the Kids Say...

"Mountain biking really helped me to discover my strength for keeping going on. It also helped me build up my commitment and dedication. I learned to always believe in yourself and don't give up." - Vancouver youth, **TFK Vancouver, BC**

"I finally got to learn about certain animals, why they live here. The guides were awesome. They gave us easy guidance. I loved the view, also the workout. And I like the bike." - Temecula youth, **TFK Temecula/Murrieta**

"I learned that I'm stronger than I thought." - Marin youth, **TFK Marin**

"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." - New Bedford youth, **TFK New Bedford**

"I learned that nature is beautiful once you get to see it. When you go out you see a lot of animals, trees, and clouds. All the surroundings from nature give me good energy. It's a lot more relaxing than being at home just watching television or playing video games. There is a bigger and beautiful world out there than just electronics.- Marin youth, **TFK Marin**

"I wish everyone had a buddy like I had today." - Seattle youth, **TFK Seattle**

## Start your own TFK Chapter!

Do you want to fill the hearts and lungs of underserved kids in your community with fresh air? Do you want to challenge kids to explore the outdoors? If so, we invite you to start a TFK chapter.

TFK chapters are started by dedicated individuals who want to take kids outside to play and experience the world of nature, kids who wouldn't be able to otherwise. While each chapter is independent, all chapters work towards the common goal of changing kids' lives through the joy and challenge of cycling. By starting a Trips for Kids Chapter in your area, you can help fill a need.

The goal of **Trips for Kids** is to provide the moral and physical support to help you develop a local chapter. We are a strong network of people who have gone through the process and want to help you every step of the way. Along with a start-up set of five bikes and other necessary equipment, we are eager to share twenty 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.) To order, send a check and request to **Trips for Kids, 138 Sunnyside, Mill Valley, CA 94941.**

There is also an abundance of information on our web site **[www.tripsforkids.org](http://www.tripsforkids.org)**. To discuss the details of your specific situation, call our office at 415-459-2817. **We look forward to working with you!**

## Trips for Kids Chapters Get Recognized

Marilyn Price, **TFK Founding Director**, was given the Jefferson Award sponsored by local CBS TV and the San Francisco Chronicle and received both TV and Chronicle coverage. The award spotlights "ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward." View the video at [www.tripsforkids.org](http://www.tripsforkids.org).

The Washington Post featured **TFK Metro DC's** rides in an article titled "When Kids Hit the Pedals, Good Things Happen." The chapter also appeared on local NBC TV. Great work everyone at TFK Metro DC! View the video on the TFK Metro DC web-

site's home page.

**TFK Denver's** Andrew Goodwillie was named local ABC TV 7 Everyday Hero and received TV coverage for this award. Andrew was honored for his work getting kids out of the inner city and into the spectacular Colorado mountains. A volunteer since 2001, Andrew helped revitalize TFK Denver and volunteers many hours each week.

**TFK CAT, TFK New Bedford, TFK Charlotte, TFK Triangle, TFK Vancouver, TFK Detroit, TFK Fox Valley, and TFK Orlando** also received media attention.

**Congratulations to all our chapters!**

## Events

### IMBA World Summit 2008

TFK held our chapter conference at the 2008 IMBA World Summit this June. Over 30 people representing Trips for Kids chapters nationwide turned out for informative and lively presentations. Two attendees even journeyed from as far away as Israel and New Zealand to jumpstart the possibility of opening the first international TFK chapters.

Founding Director Marilyn Price says, "The diversity of programs, wealth of experience,

depth, and range of the chapters' programs supplied tons of new knowledge and a lot of inspiration. It's obvious that our chapters have matured into positive, vital entities making a significant contribution to kids."

A representative from the National Park Service (NPS) talked about the possibility of NPS developing 5 NPS/TFK pilot projects to engage kids in parks. In addition, TFK led 2 youth panel discussions at the IMBA Summit sessions for IMBA attendees. A big thank you to all who made this event so successful!

## TFK Chapters on YOUTUBE

### YOUTUBE: Lights, Camera, Action — Six TFK Videos Online!

Check out TFK Marin's public service announcement narrated by Peter Coyote, volunteers from Salesforce.com on a TFK ride, and a video about the 2007 TFK Bike Swap at the Infineon Cougar Mountain Classic! See riders embarking on The White Rim Spring Challenge to raise funds for TFK Denver. Also Andrea Hundredmark with TFK Triangle in Chapel Hill, North Carolina has produced a video about the murder of UNC-Chapel Hill Student Body President Eve Carson. Carson's suspected killers were dropouts of Durham Public Schools. And finally John Herberg who runs the TFK CAT program in Eugene, Oregon has uploaded a video of one of his trips. They're all on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com); just type in Trips for Kids.

### Renowned Author Richard Louv Gives Credence to TFK's Mission

Richard Louv, Author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, gives huge credibility to TFK's mission. His subject matter pertains to the shrinking number of kids who venture into nature. Louv posits that exposure to the natural world can help prevent childhood obesity, depression, stress, and attention deficit disorder, and enhance children's academic and emotional growth. What powerful confirmation of our work!

## MEDIA SPONSORS



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**Mail To:**

“Everyone involved with Trips For Kids Yarmouth is thrilled to be able to offer this type of experience to the youth of Yarmouth who would normally not get a chance participate in this type of activity. We are very excited to be involved with Trips For Kids and are all looking forward to many years of community involvement. 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!”

- Jack Harding, Trips for Kids Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

# Support Trips For Kids



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

Donations 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 underserved youth across North America.

*Here's my tax-deductible contribution:*

\$25     \$50     \$150     \$250     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Double your contribution** through your employer's matching fund program. See if TFK is eligible for a special grant from your company.

**Thanks for your support!**