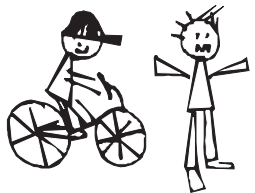




2022 Program Report

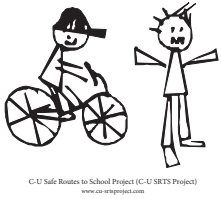


Champaign-Urbana Safe Routes to School Project
Funded in part by the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program



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Acknowledgments



Champaign-Urbana Safe Routes to School Project
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July 2022



Overview

The C-U Safe Routes to School Project (C-U SRTS) partnered with Champaign County Bikes (CCB) and Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club (DMBGC) to host the four-day 2022 Earn-a-Bike Program during the week of July 11. This year, we had additional partnerships with BR Bikes and Repairs and The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign. The program's goals are to teach student participants basic bike maintenance and repairs and traffic skill maneuvers. Upon completion of the program, students are awarded their bike, a bike lock, a pair of bike lights, and a helmet. A total of six students participated in this year's program: Ramsay Arnold, Shemeer Clark, Amier Heath, Nataya Pelmore, Nyla Purnell, and Aijana Young. The program was led by two League Certified Instructors (LCI): Cynthia Hoyle and Charlie Smyth. We also had nine volunteers that assisted us: Briana Barr, Philip Gable, Audrey Ishii, Bernabe Romero Santos, Daniel Saphiere, Sam Smyth, Thomas Valencia, and Lily Wilcock. The program was held at the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club for days one, three, and four. Day two was held at the Campus Recreation Bike Center at the University of Illinois (U of I), with The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign hosting. The two bike rides occurred on the U of I campus and in the community.

Champaign County Bikes provided trailer space to transport and store the students' bike and materials throughout the program. Moving the trailer to the DMBGC facility and Campus Bike Center was achieved through the use of a maintenance truck provided by the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD), C-U SRTS' official sponsor and fiscal grant agent

DMBGC students were asked to complete an application to confirm their participation in the program, which also included a parental permission form. Up to six students were allowed to participate. Students were also asked to complete the online Illinois Bike Safety Quiz. The quiz teaches students about bike safety and how to ride safely while on the road. Passing the quiz was another requirement for receive their bike and supplementing materials.

For this year's program, no formal COVID-19 mitigation guidelines were enforced. Mask wearing and three feet social distancing were not required when conducting close contact activities with students such as working on bikes, fitting helmets, etc. Masks were not required while riding bikes.



Instructional Days

Monday, July 11, 2022

On the first official day of the program, students met at outside the Don Moyer's Boys and Girls Club, located at 201 E. Park St, Champaign, Illinois. During this day, students were taught basic bike maintenance and building. Each student was given bike parts and instructions on how to assemble their bike. These sessions were led by bike maintenance experts Philip Gable, Bernabe Romero Santos, Charlie Smyth, and Lily Wilcock, with additional help from other volunteers. Given scheduling conflicts with the students, the day was divided in two. A morning session was held from 9 AM to 11 AM and an afternoon session was held from 1:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The bikes were stored in a trailer provided by Champaign County Bikes, parked near the DMBGC facility.

Class Schedule

- Assembling your new bike:
 - Bicycle parts, bike fitting
 - Bike Maintenance - How to replace a tube, how to air up tires, how to clean and maintain your chain, how to adjust seat height
- ABC Quick Check – checking tire pressure, brakes, chain, crank, and quick releases before riding
- Helmet Fitting - How to fit your helmet to your own or your friend's head



Tuesday, July 12, 2022

The second day of the program was held at the Campus Recreation Bike Center on the University of Illinois campus, hosted by The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign. A large, outdoor space with bathrooms was needed to host the traffic skills class and The Bike Project offered to use to their space. We held a bike rodeo that aimed to teach students key traffic maneuvers and knowledge, being held from 9 AM to 11 AM. We built the traffic skills course on the basketball court using SRTS materials such as chalk, cones, half tennis balls, and miniature signs. The students were later led a on short ride around the area using campus bike infrastructure. Our volunteers for the day included Audrey Ishii, Daniel Saphiere, Sam Smyth, and Thomas Valencia. The class was led by our LCIs Cynthia Hoyle and Charlie Smyth.

Class Schedule

- Bicycle Safety Basics
 - What causes people to crash while on their bicycle
 - Is the bike considered 'a vehicle' under the law?
 - Where should you ride your bike?
 - What are the rules of the road?
 - What are the legal hand signals for bicyclists?
 - How can I make sure cars see me if I am bicycling at night or in the winter?
 - Where are the 'bus danger zone' or blind spots?
- Bike Rodeo - Practice scanning, signaling, turning and lane positioning at intersections
- Short Ride – Use your skills and take a short ride around the area using bike infrastructure



Wednesday, July 13, 2022

On the third day of the program, we took the students for a short bike ride around the U of I campus, downtown Urbana, and into residential areas. This occurred between 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM. The aim was to expose students to all kinds of cycling infrastructure. Several notable spots include the White Street sharrows, the Wright Street and Green Street infrastructure along MTD bus routes, the Wright/Armory contra flow bike lanes, two-stage left turns at Green and Goodwin, and side paths at Crystal Lake Park. Key traffic skill maneuvers used included scanning, signaling, and lane positioning. We also invited the students for a treat at the Culver's in Urbana on Race Street during the ride. This is where we taught them how to lock their bikes. The ride was led by LCIs Cynthia Hoyle and Charlie Smyth and was accompanied by volunteers Audrey Ishii and Thomas Valencia.

Class Schedule

- Ride Your Bike! - Students will practice their bicycle skills based on their skill levels utilizing on and off-road infrastructure as appropriate
- Securing your bike - How to lock your bike so it isn't stolen
- Class Bike Ride! - The class will take a bike ride and practice their on-bike skills using various neighborhood environments appropriate to their skill levels.



Thursday, July 14, 2022

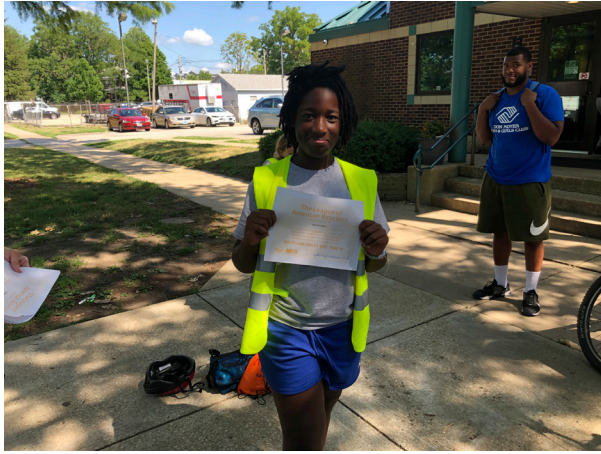
On our fourth and final day, we took the students on a similar, slightly longer ride around the U of I campus and into downtown Urbana. This occurred between 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM. We originally planned to take the students into downtown Champaign but decided not to in order to reduce travel time. Highlights of the ride included the paths along the Boneyard Creek Detention Pond, the Boneyard Greenway, the Gregory Drive campus bike lanes, campus bike paths, and on-street parking spaces along bike lanes. The day's treat included ice pops at the Common Ground Co-Op at Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana, where the students also saw an example of covered bike parking. We ended the day and program by presenting the students with their "Bicycle Skills 123: Youth" certificates, took pictures, and officially awarded them their bike and equipment.

Class Schedule

- Class Bike Ride! - The class will take a longer bike ride around the U of I campus and the community for more practice



Student Participants



Nyla Purnell



Amier Heath



Ramsay Arnold



Shemeer Clark



Student Participants



Aijana Young and Nataya Pelmore



Conclusions & Future

This year's program was success overall. We were given a tight timeframe of two weeks to plan out the entire program, as the week of July 11 was the only timeframe that worked well for DMBGC, our LCIs, and most of our volunteers. We also had initial scheduling conflicts with the students, moving our sessions from the morning to the afternoon for the final two days and splitting the first day into two.

Proposed recommendations for future programs include:

- Establish a task list for the program and begin working on it in May after Bike and Roll to School Day
- Communicate frequently with DMBGC staff and CCB, starting in May, to ensure adequate planning time
- Secure dates and times at least three weeks prior to the program to ensure adequate volunteer recruiting time, especially of C-U SRTS steering committee members who have outside responsibilities
- Establish relationship with local bike shops, such as BR Bikes and Repairs, to coordinate Day 1 bike maintenance session
- Consider submitting a mobile order or call ahead of time for ice cream treats

With the absence of funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation, funding for bikes and supplemental materials to award students in future programs remains uncertain. If funding is not secured for 2023, we would look at only hosting a traffic skills rodeo and rides with DMBGC students. To be competitive in state and federal grant applications, the Earn-a-Bike Program could be listed as “educational activity” towards achieving safe streets, safe routes to school, and promotion of active transportation in current or future transportation/infrastructure action plans and Vision Zero plans developed by the Cities of Champaign and Urbana, the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), or the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD). Champaign County Bikes will also be targeting EAB as part of their fundraising during the 2022 C-U Bike to Work Day,



Appendix



STUDENTS EARN



A New Bike



A Helmet



Lights



A Lock

1 COMPLETE CLASSES



Two hours of basic bicycle assembly, maintenance and repair

2 GET YOUR BIKE !



Two hours of safe riding instruction and four hours practice

REGISTER TODAY!



Class size limited.

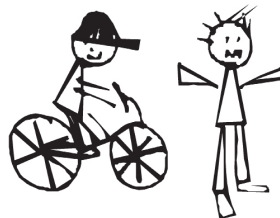
Email or call
Ms. Cynthia Hoyle
choyle@mtd.org
 217 649-6505



Thank You!



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