

2023 Bike Month Event Ideas

Help celebrate Bike Month by organizing an event in your community!

See below for event ideas and resources which include hosting a community bike ride, getting involved in National Bike & Roll to School Day, helping community members repair and fix their bikes, encouraging your local leaders to join a bike challenge, hosting a film screening, and more.

Please note: We acknowledge it may take more resources than a small stipend to put on an event and that some ideas below may not work for certain neighborhoods or places.

Host a Community Bike Ride

- Family-friendly bike ride examples from We Keep You Rollin' Bike & Wellness Group, Cycle Brookfield, and Elgin Community Bikes including Full Moon Rides, Slow Roll Social Rides, Wellness Rides, and more:
 - We Keep Your Rollin' Rides: <https://www.facebook.com/catchtheroll/>
 - Cycle Brookfield Rides: <http://cyclebrookfield.com/events/>
 - Elgin Community Bikes Rides: <https://elgincommunitybikes.org/elginbikecalendar>
 - Tips on organizing a family bike-ride: <http://www.activetrans.org/sites/files/OrganizingBikeRidesforKids.pdf>
- Themed bike rides including costume rides, neighborhood clean-up rides, visits to local businesses, and more.
- Ride with the Mayor or Alderperson – Work with your local leaders to lead a bike ride. Examples of towns with mayors leading bike rides include Broadview, Warrenville, and North Aurora.
- Ride of Silence (May 17) - To remember those who have been killed by traffic violence: <https://rideofsilence.org/main.php>
- National Ride a Bike Day (May 7) - Promotional materials from the League of American Bicyclists available at <https://bikeleague.org/events/bike-month/>

Host a Bike-Related Event

- Bike Fix-It Event – Partner with a local bike shop to offer free bike-checks and tune-ups to kick-off the 2023 bike season.
- Bicycle-themed Movie Screening – Host a movie screening at your local library or community center.
 - The Street Project, for example, is a film about the global, citizen-led fight to make our streets safer. You can partner with other community groups to purchase a license to publicly screen this film for your community: <https://www.thestreetproject.com/>
- Bike Rodeo – Organize a bike obstacle course to help kids or adults learn bike safety skills: <http://www.activetrans.org/sites/files/BikeRodeoStationIdeas.pdf>

Participate in National Bike & Roll to School Day

- Encourage your local schools to participate in Bike & Roll to School Day on May 3 (or beyond) or take the lead by helping your school organize an event. Events come in all shapes and sizes from bicycle trains to bike rodeos to educational activities:
 - <https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/plan/event-ideas/>

- More than a couple dozen Illinois schools have signed up to participate in 2023. Schools can register here: <https://walkbiketoschool.org/registration/>

Involve your City, Village or Ward in Bike Month

- Adopt an official **Bike Month Proclamation** – See examples from the Village of Palatine and League of American Bicyclists for example language:
 - [League of American Bicyclist sample text](#) (doc)
 - [Village of Palatine example](#) (pdf)
- Participate in **Move with the Mayor** and sign up for the **Spring Challenge**: This national initiative works with mayors across the country to challenge their communities to be more physically active. The Spring Challenge, where mayors can organize a community bike ride, runs from April 15 to May 31: <https://www.nationalforum.org/mwtm>
 - Chicagoland communities participating in Move with the Mayor include West Chicago, Geneva, Richton Park, Elgin, Hanover Park, Batavia, Wood Dale, Hampshire, Evergreen Park, Glendale Heights, and Countryside.
 - If your mayor would like to sign up, contact Michelle Snyder at michelle.snyder.ic@nationalforum.org
- Start the process of becoming a **Bicycle Friendly Community** – Help make your town a destination for residents and visitors by encouraging municipal staff to apply for Bicycle Friendly Community status: <https://bikeleague.org/bfa/community/>
- Organize a **Bicycle Audit** with elected officials, municipal staff, and community members by riding to popular community destinations as a group and discussing issues and opportunities for improvement.

Create a Bike Month Bingo Card

- Create a Bingo Card with various bike related activities such as running an errand by bike, visiting a local trail, taking a selfie with your bike, etc. If you have the resources or can get donations, you can offer prizes to a few participants:
 - Bike Palatine Club Bike Bingo Card: <https://activetrans.org/busreports/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Go-by-Bike-Bingo-Card-1.pdf>
 - City of Carbondale Bike Bingo Card: <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Carbondale/CarbondaleBikeMonthBINGO>

Participate in the Active Transportation Alliance's Bicycle Commuter Challenge

- Starting May 15, the Challenge is a month-long biking competition where Chicagoland organizations compete to see who can earn the most points by riding their bike. It's free to participate! Just sign up, ride your bike, and watch the points roll in. Register at <https://www.biketoworkchallenge.org/page/about>

Host a Bike Month Celebration Station

- Table at a community event, farmers market, along a popular bike route, or at a transit station and bring snacks, refreshments, educational materials, bike pumps or other resources to share with riders.

Host a Library Bike Month Book Display

- Work with your local library to set up a display of bicycle-themed books, bike maps, or other educational materials to celebrate Bike Month.
 - Advocates from the Village of Palatine have worked with the Palatine Library every year to host a Bike Month display: <https://activetrans.org/dev/busreports/blog/bike-palatine-club-joins-forces-with-other-groups-to-celebrate-national-bike-month>

Education & Advocacy - can be incorporated into anything you do!

- Start an **Action Alert** or collect signatures for a petition about a local project and submit to a local leader. We're happy to help you set up a petition using our online petition software or you can use a free platform such as change.org.
- Share **Bike Safety Information** via social media, newsletters, or distribute in-person:
 - Ride Illinois's Bike Safety Quiz: <https://rideillinois.org/safety/bike-safety-quiz/>
 - Bike to Work Resources: <https://activetrans.org/resources/bike-to-work/get-ready-to-ride>
 - Various Bicycle Resources: <https://activetrans.org/resources/links>
- **Invite local leaders** to participate in a bike ride or event.
- **Collect input** from event participants on where they would like to see more bike-friendly infrastructure or ways your city/village/neighborhood can become more bike-friendly. Submit ideas to local leaders afterwards.
- **Document conditions** of existing bike routes or places where you think there should be improved bicycle infrastructure.