**Bike and Roll to School Day Ideas**

If you think your school can’t possibly host a Walk and Roll to School Day event, think again! The ideas listed below can help make it work.

**Designated Starting Points**

Whether there aren’t safe routes from every participant’s home, you want to include bus riders or you want to have a party with a school-wide walk, there are many times when identifying specific starting points for walking and rolling to school make sense. Ideally, the route will be accessible for all students.

So how might these events look? Here are some ideas that can be mixed and matched into an event that’s right for your community:

**Park n Go:** Pick a designated meeting area within biking distance of the school that will enable families to park their cars and bike or roll to school. If parents won’t be required to walk or ride with their children, then adult chaperones should be ready to travel to school with students.

**Hold a parade:** Invite elected officials, parents and students to meet in one location and bike or roll to school parade-style! Carry banners or ask a marching band to escort your group to increase the fanfare of your event. The event fliers should include the location and meeting time, as well as the time the group will leave the site to get to school.

**Multiple meet-ups:** Designate meeting points that match the different directions that students come from. Each route can have a special name such as the “Southern Neighborhood Cyclists”. Groups depart from respective locations and meet at the school.

Publicize the routes and include departure times. Identify at least one person to act as coordinator at each remote meeting point. This person can make any necessary announcements and get the group walking or riding on time.

This strategy can be particularly good when the event will launch weekly or daily walking school buses or bicycle trains or to promote certain routes to school. It’s also smart when you expect a lot of participants.

**Considerations for Using Designated Meeting Points**

* Possible locations might include a library, park, grocery store or church.
* Make sure there is enough parking.
* Obtain permission to use the location from the property owner before publicizing the event.
* Think about how far the location is from the school and what route the group will take.
* Try biking or rolling the route once, with a child if you can. Sometimes the longer route is better if it has safer facilities like sidewalks, crosswalks and pedestrian signals as opposed to a more direct route.
* It may be helpful to hand out route maps to parents, teachers and other adult participants. You can easily map and share your routes with Google Maps.

**Bike Trains**

Bike trains address the needs of students and the concerns of parents. One or more adults accompany a small group of students who pick up other students along a planned route, similar to the traditional school bus. They bike as a group on their commute to and from school. These are usually utilized when older students are involved.

A bike safety workshop (sometimes called a bike rodeo) should be offered to teach students important safety habits, including the importance of wearing a bike helmet. Bike racks should also be available to students to secure their bikes while at school. Bike trains need more adults to supervise bicyclists and adults should be good role models (i.e., know and obey bicycle safety rules).

**Great Ideas for Group Walking & Rolling**

Event organizers say that students really enjoy being involved in the preparations for an organized group walk. Encourage students to make signs and banners that they can carry during the parade. Choose a theme or a slogan that students can chant and put on their signs. Get guidance on how to encourage students to make great event signs, or download a banner template to print out for your school.

* Ham it up. Decorate the bicycles or helmets.
* Show school or team pride. Wear school colors or matching t-shirts while rolling.
* Have students design promotional materials like banners and signs.
* Decorate some of the route to school before the event.
* Invite local bicycling advocates, dignitaries, or local high school champions to lead the ride.

**When Routes Aren’t Safe...**

Walking and rolling AT school is particularly good when there aren’t good walking or rolling routes to school or if students live too far away to walk or ride. Recess, physical education or even class time can be dedicated to walking or rolling together. Students can use the school field or playground or, with a little planning, walk and roll around the school campus. Resourceful organizers have even held events in gyms in rainy weather. It’s an activity all the children can enjoy, and the walks or rides can be tied into a variety of classroom activities. Schools can host bike rodeos or walking and rolling parades after school if it is not possible to walk or roll to school, or hold a parade during school hours.

**Special Considerations for Bicycling at School**

* Students can be encouraged to bring their bikes on this special day to ride on the playground or in the school gymnasium.
* Plan ahead to identify the most appropriate place for students to bicycle on school grounds and where students should park their bikes.
* Think about how students will get their bikes home after the event. If bikes are stored inside the school, consider opening the school on a Saturday so that busy parents can pick up their bikes on a day that’s more convenient. Be creative!
* Make sure all bicyclists wear helmets.
* Ask local bike shops or advocacy groups if they can loan bikes for the event so that more students can participate.
* Consider organizing a bicycle skills clinic (also called a bike rodeo) during lunch, recess or an assembly to teach safe biking skills.
* Arrange a pre-event bicycle repair clinic in the school parking lot. Enlist the help of a local bike shop to repair broken chains, tighten brakes, fix flat tires, etc.