



Champaign-Urbana Safe Routes to School Project (C-U SRTS)

Bike and Roll to School Day – 2022 Report



Overview

The C-U Safe Routes to School Project celebrated Bike and Roll to School Day on Wednesday, May 4th, 2022 as part of National Bike Month. We partnered with the City of Urbana, Urbana School District 116, Champaign Unit 4 School District, and Champaign County Bikes. We also had a first time, special partnership with Urbana High School's Project Ignition Club. We had volunteers from community organizations, staff from local government entities, and students from the University of Illinois. The day's flagship event was held Urbana Middle and Schools in partnership with the Project Ignition Club. Mayor Diane Marlin joined Project Ignition student in reading a proclamation declaring Bike and Roll to School Day in the City of Urbana. We also had volunteers attend events at five schools: three in Urbana and two in Champaign.

School events were held in the morning roughly between 7:15am to 9:00am. The bike station at Urbana Middle and High School received the most comprehensive planning and coordination, mainly between C-U SRTS team and the Project Ignition Club. The remaining schools did not have formal events, but volunteers meet with students at the bike racks of each school and distributed to them their t-shirt and bike materials. No checklists or surveys were given to schools to distribute to students, especially since the National Center for Safe Routes School Data Center was shut down in March 2022.

Events

Urbana Middle and High Schools

The event at Urbana Middle and High Schools served as the focus for Bike and Roll to School Day events for the community, lasting from 7:30am to 8:50am. The event was spearheaded by the work and collaboration of the Project Ignition Club. Club sponsor Judy-Weber Jones joined C-U SRTS Steering Committee meetings and worked with us on student registrations, materials distribution, and volunteer recruitment. Project Ignition required that all BRTSD participants take the Illinois Bike Safety Quiz. That resulted in over 200 high school students and 80 middle schools' students taking the quiz. 90 middle and high school students registered for BRTSD.

On the day of the event, the weather was abnormally chilly, resulting in lower turnout than expected, but C-U SRTS team of volunteers still had a great time working with the Project Ignition students in distributing t-shirts and materials. Urbana Mayor Diane joined the group in reading the BRTSD proclamation.



The Project Ignition Club students Elena Poulosky, Isiah Menard, and Park Mitchell used Bike and Roll to School Day as their community safety project at the Illinois Student Safety Competition (ISSP) in Effingham, IL, the next day. The club received Gold recognition in all categories including: Illinois Student Safety Club of the Year, Best Community Safety Project, Best T-Shirt Award, and Outstanding Youth Safety Student of the Year Award (Park Mitchell).

The volunteers for this event included Kara Dudek-Mizel, Audrey Ishii, Rose Kaczmarowski, Cynthia Hoyle, Jenna Quintana, Thomas Valencia, and Lily Wilcock.



Other School Events

The remaining schools that had students who participated in Bike and Roll to School Day include: **Leal Elementary, Thomas Paine Elementary, and Yankee Ridge Elementary** in Urbana, as well as **Dr. Howard Elementary** and **Jefferson Middle School** in Champaign. For these events, volunteers meet up with students at the bike racks and gave them their t-shirt and bike materials. Student registration for these events were much lower than what was seen at Urbana Middle and High Schools. Dr. Howard and Jefferson both has six student registrations, Leal Elementary has two student registrations, and Thomas Paine and Yankee Ridge each had one student. Charlie Smyth served as the volunteer for Leal, Briana Barr for Thomas Paine, Rose Kaczmarowski for Yankee Ridge, Evan Alvarez and Dan Saphiere for Dr. Howard, and Gabe Lewis for Jefferson.

Additionally, we had three schools in Champaign that saw one student registration each, but the C-U SRTS team was not able to find volunteers to host a bike rack event. They include **Bottenfield Elementary, Countryside School, and Southside Elementary**. In lieu, the team went to each school a few days before BRTSD and delivered the bag of materials to the respective front office.



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