



Program Rap Sheet - 6th Grade Street Smarts

This spring, Routt County Riders, Steamboat Springs Middle School, Routt County Public Health, SBTGRVL and Switchback Sports will collaborate to reach all 6th grade students at SSMS with bike safety and education workshops from 5/24-5/26/22. This pilot “Street Smarts” program will emphasize the importance of equipment and helmet checks, following the rules of the road, interpreting signage, and safely commuting on a bike from the middle school through Old Town to access downtown and eventually the Core Trail.

During the month of September 2021, an average of **85 students** were commuting to Steamboat Springs Middle School by bike, according to on-site physical count by school staff. Of these 85, about **20 were typically e-bikes, and about 13 were arriving NOT wearing a helmet.** Anecdotal data suggests that 7th graders were the ‘worst offenders’ in lack of helmet usage, and that it was more typical for 8th graders to be using an e-bike (rather than 6th or 7th graders).

Over winter 2021-2022, 6th grade art students at the school created poster designs using the main bike safety curriculum points. A ‘winner’ will be chosen from several categories to turn these posters into print, and winners will each receive a \$50 gift card to Switchback Sports.



This May, the key partners noted above will coordinate curriculum to be presented **on bikes by teams of facilitators alongside small ‘pods’ of students, who will bring their own bike and helmet to school for session days.** Switchback Sports will be on-site during the program to outfit students lacking the proper equipment with loaner gear for their session and perform safety checks. For kids who have not yet successfully learned to ride a bike, a **Learn-to-Ride curriculum will be provided, led by SBT GRVL.** **Anyone interested in volunteering their time on the morning of 5/24, 5/25 or 5/26 in ride groups or Learn to Ride, please contact laraine@routtcountyriders.org**

Eventually, it is the aim of partners to both grow and improve this pilot program, and also to ensure that each and every 6th grader in the Steamboat vicinity has access to a bike. By establishing a baseline of what needs exist in spring of 2022, it is expected that RCR and partners can continue to work together with schools and the RCR Bike Match program to accomplish this goal in the future. If you have a gently used kids bike you would consider donating to the program, or if you or your family are in need of a bike yourselves, contact Matthew Rochon, RCR Community Outreach Program Manager, at matthew@routtcountyriders.org. For all other program inquiries, or to volunteer for Street Smarts, please contact laraine@routtcountyriders.org .