



Earn-a-Bike


- Ohio City Bicycle Co-OP
- Type:
 - Health & fitness
 - Accessibility, special needs, & socializing
 - Education & safety
- 1995, Relunched 2001

County: Cuyahoga
(District 7)



OCBC's Earn A Bike program is an in-depth course of bike repair and riding for youth. By completing the program, students earn a refurbished basic mountain bike, with a new helmet and lock. This program is free for any child (though any donations from satisfied parents are always appreciated!). With 15 hours of training in bike maintenance and safe cycling, this program is the best way we can help young riders use bikes safely and effectively. Participants *earn their bike by doing bike-repair tasks, and by learning and practicing safe-cycling Traffic Skills.*


Jim Sheehan, ED OCBC
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Earn-a-Bike

- Children 8-18
- One Program Leader and One Adult per 3 Children
- 200
- Earn-a-Bike programs happen both in the shop as well as on location with partner organizations.
- Program frequency: (weekl

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(District 7)



Any children, from the age of about 8 through 15 years old can earn a bike any time the shop is open by volunteering with a parent/legal guardian or other adult their parent has designated (such as a relative, caseworker, big brother, big sister, etc.). One adult may bring up to three children, and must work with them during the entire time they are here. Kids 16 and 17 years old can volunteer without a parent, once their parent provides a schedule of their visits and the release form. If designating another adult, or for kids over 15, parents are urged to attend the orientation or at least visit the shop to complete our permission/release form.

Adults working with Earn A Bike students also earn volunteering credits and may use in the same way as for any volunteering, or may apply them towards a better bike for their child (but the child must still meet the other Earn A Bike requirements).

They work together with their adult for 10 hours (on their own schedule — our only requirement is that each visit last at least an hour), doing jobs that will teach them about bike repair. They may take (again, with their parent or designated adult) the required Bike Basics and Traffic Skills Intro classes after they have been volunteering for three hours.

Partner organizations have included the Greater Cleveland YMCA, schools, CDCs, and various other community organizations.

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Earn-a-Bike

- Unlike programs that teach children how to ride a bike, the Earn-a-Bike program immerses children in bike culture.
- Through hands on learning children gain technical and safety skills while encouraging a healthy lifestyle.
- The program is designed to be easily recreated and tailored to the needs of an organization.


As the prevalence of cycling continues to rise, it is important to instill safe riding practices in youth at a young age. By combining the education and safety element with the opportunity to take home a new bike, the Earn-a-Bike program makes safety and learning fun. The skills learned during the classes are enough to commute with confidence without being too overwhelming or in-depth, and foster a relationship that we at the Co-Op will last a lifetime. As the program is flexible to location and number of participants, it is great for all types of organizations, groups, and events.



Earn-a-Bike

- Engaging
- Educational
- Adaptable
- Seminal
- FUN!

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March 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to provide this letter of support on behalf of the Ohio City Bike Co-op with whom I have had the privilege of working over the past three or so years. The OCBC provides a unique and much-needed service to the Greater Cleveland community. Through its unique combination of bicycle safety training education, social rides and basic bicycle mechanical training and repairs, the Co-op assists bicyclists of all incomes become safer and better equipped riders.

I have personally worked with the OCBC on a youth bicycle education program last summer. The Co-op provided the loaner bicycles, helmets and locks to 25 Central neighborhood students who were interested in learning to ride safely on-road. Co-op staff provided these students with a

combination of classroom and on-road instruction, enabling them to confidently take to the streets on the bicycles which they “earned” over the course of this program.

Increasingly, bicycling in Cleveland is being thought about not only in terms of its recreation and transportation considerations but also in basic health equity terms. An estimated 40% of Cleveland residents do not have cars for transportation, with many of them turning to bicycling as their most affordable means to get around. But these riders voices are rarely heard. Through the OCBC’s services which extend into neighborhoods throughout the city, these currently voiceless riders are becoming plugged into networks of other riders with whom they can organize on behalf of bicycle facility improvements in Cleveland.

Should you have questions or require additional information, I can be reached via email at bclint@clevelandymca.org or by phone at (216) 263-6293. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Clint,
Director of Community Health & Advocacy
YMCA of Greater Cleveland