



Service Learning Lesson Guide

Lesson Topic: Bike Friendly Community Assessment
Teen-to-Adult

What's the Point?

This lesson is designed to be used by high school students to work with parents, community and business leaders to determine if their communities are bicycle friendly. Teens will work with adults to identify bicycle friendly routes rather than the everyday or faster route that may be more dangerous.

The lesson can be incorporated into a variety of courses including: Public Speaking, Health and Civics.

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify safe bicycling routes for themselves, peers and younger children in their communities.
- Students will learn about communities in other states and countries that are bicycle friendly.
- Students will be able to talk with adults about what makes a community bicycle friendly and help identify ways to make the community safer for some of the most vulnerable road users in their communities.
- Students will examine the benefits of a bicycle friendly community.

Materials

- Statistics provided on the NOYS website about bicycle crashes.
- Helmets if you are going to be riding.
- Tip sheet on how to ride safely.
- Bike Friendly Community Assessment for Teens developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. A link to this document can be found on the NOYS website (noys.org).

Interest Grabber

Conduct an informal survey of bicyclist behaviors in your community. Observe how and where other teens ride bicycles. Consider creating a survey to ask younger teens about their bicycling habits. Ask for middle school volunteers to help with the community assessment.

Teaching Steps

1. As a class research the statistics related to bicycle crashes. Use the sources listed on the NOYS website for statistics.
2. As a class, research communities in other states and countries that are bicycle friendly. Find the ten most bikeable cities in the U.S. Record their characteristics to compare them against those of your community.
3. Talk with younger teens to determine where they regular ride their bicycles.
4. Create a list of locations to see if the routes are bicycle friendly.
5. Use NHTSA's Bike Friendly Community Assessment for Teens and walk the routes with the middle school volunteers. Record your answers to the questions.
6. After you've reviewed the answers, ride the routes. See if you notice anything different when you are riding. Remember to wear a helmet!
7. Use the NHTSA Assessment, if needed, to suggest improvements to make roadways more bicycle friendly to teens. Present the recommendations to the appropriate agencies for example: schools, community associations, the Board of Education, police department and local government.
8. In the short term, use the NHTSA assessment to development alternative routes, if necessary, for younger teens. Share the routes with local schools, parents and parent groups.

Evaluation

The activities and follow-up can be evaluated using a teacher-created rubric. Student participation in the lesson and discussions can also be evaluated using a teacher-created rubric.