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Letter from the Editor

YOUTH MOVEMENT

The future of bicycle travel

The mission of the Adventure Cycling Association is simple: to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle. Over the past thirty years or so, we've focused the vast majority of our resources on inspiring adults to hop on a bicycle and ride. Nothing wrong with that, except this:

it doesn't secure a population of future adults for us to inspire.

So, what to do? First, we consulted experts in youth fields and cycling communities — teachers, scout leaders, program directors, psychologists, etc. Great ideas flew back and forth and it was up to then Adventure Cycling outreach coordinator Larry Diskin to harness the potential into a plan. Soon, however, this task fell to Becky Douglas, and with the help of too many people to mention here, Becky revved up the Pedal Pioneers Youth Program with the goal of helping teachers, youth group leaders, and inspired individuals organize their own youth bicycle tours.

The cornerstone of the program is *Pedal Pioneers: A Guide to Bicycle Travel with Kids*, best described by Tina Bechler, program director of Bike Works, this way: "This guide is full of great information, loads of resources, and is long overdue in the special world of planning hike trips for kids."

We now have an area of our website dedicated to Pedal Pioneers where you can find information on how to get involved with the program, a youth bicycle forum and registry, and other helpful resources, so visit www.adventurecycling.org/outreach/pedalpioneers.cfm or call Becky at (406) 721-1776 x235.



Will all of the hard work poured into this program help us achieve our goal? If the words of Jessie Nosworthy of Swain County High School are any indication, we're off to a good start: "I remember the way it felt when we first crested

the top of the twenty-mile climb coming into Lewistown, Montana, to know it was going to be all downhill from there out. I knew in time that I would have to do it again."

This issue of *Adventure Cyclist* marks our annual effort to inspire adults to travel by bicycle with their kids. We know it's not often easy for people to pull off a bicycle adventure, but it can be done and done well. Paula Holmes-Eber, Cindy Ross, and Trudy Bell have been providing us with great stories and advice on this subject since we began this effort. Even our hang-up technical editor John Schubert got into the act this summer by accompanying his son on our Family Fun trip in Colorado. They rode an innovative Co-Motion Periscope tandem, which John reviews in his "CycleSense" column.

Good luck out there.

Michael Deme
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