

4th Grade Bicycle Education Program

The City of Auburn, Auburn City Schools, Auburn Bicycle Committee, and the Auburn Civitan Club have implemented a 4th Grade Bicycle Education program to ensure that every child in the city school system is taught how to safely ride a bicycle.

The program began in 1999 thanks to initiative from the Auburn Bicycle Committee and members of the Auburn Civitan Club. As part of the program, the Auburn Civitan Club supplied students with 18 bicycles, helmets, bicycle maintenance, and other appropriate gear for hands on lessons. The curriculum developed by the Bicycle Federation of America ensures young riders learn the rules of the road as they apply to all bicyclists. Lesson books supplied by the Alabama Department of Transportation have fun interactive lessons for the students. Each school keeps the bicycles for approximately five weeks as the physical education teacher presents the curriculum.



In 2003, thanks to a federal enhancement grant through the Alabama Department of Transportation, the City of Auburn purchased a storage trailer for the bicycles used in the Bicycle Safety Program. The 24 by 8 foot enclosed trailer is equipped to house and transport 28 bicycles, assorted helmets, traffic signs, construction cones, and other necessary materials. The ease of bicycle storage and transportation is a key factor in the success of this program.



Bike racks are used inside the trailer to keep bicycles upright and secured during transport between schools. Helmets are located in boxes above the bicycles. The 4th grade students take down a helmet and roll out a bicycle for each day's activities during their physical education class



Over time, the program has grown from the original 18 bicycles and gear. Thanks to the Auburn City School System, the trailer is now fully stocked with 28 bicycles, helmets, and

gear. The Auburn Civitan Club won an international award for their work with this program during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

The program has been a tremendous success with many students showing significant improvements. Many parents, proud of their child's accomplishments, have rewarded them with their own bicycle. At the end of the program, each student receives a Certificate of Achievement from the Auburn Civitan Club.