



NAPA COUNTY
BICYCLE
COALITION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Share the Road and Look Out for One Another During Bicycle Safety Month

Napa, Calif. — May is National Bicycle Safety Month and the Napa Police Department, alongside the Napa County Bicycle Coalition and law enforcement agencies throughout Napa County, is encouraging more people to get active and safely take bike rides.

“Bicycling is a great means of transportation and recreation, and everyone deserves to ride to their destination safely,” Kara Vernor, Executive Director of the Napa County Bicycle Coalition said. “Let’s look out for one another and share the road, share the responsibility.”

To help keep people biking or walking safe, the Napa County Bicycle Coalition and partners will conduct an array of safety and encouragement events throughout the month, including:

- Four free, group bike rides leaving from Bikefest on Sunday, May 5. All rides will include safety instruction most relevant to each ride’s level and characteristics. Bikefest will also include a bike rodeo, in partnership with the California Highway Patrol, where youth can build bike-handling skills and practice the rules of the road in a safe environment. More information is available at www.napabike.com/bikefest
- Napa County Bike to Work and School Day on Thursday, May 16. It is part of the regional Bay Area Bike to Work/Wherever Day program, additionally funded by a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 511.org, and Amazon. Students and community members are invited to commute by bike and to visit a school- or community-based energizer station as a reward. More information is available at www.napabike.org/bike-to-work-school-day/

The Napa Police Department and the Napa County Bicycle Coalition suggest the following safety tips for bicyclists and drivers:

Drivers

- Slow down and follow the speed limit. Be careful traveling through intersections.
- Look carefully for bicyclists and pedestrians before making a turn or opening a car door near streets or bike paths.

- Be patient when traveling behind a bicyclist and give them space when passing. California law requires drivers to change a lane, when possible, to pass bicyclists.
- Never drive distracted or impaired.

Bike Riders

- Use lights at night.
- Although not required for riders 18 and older, always wear a properly secured helmet. Helmets significantly reduce the chance of a head injury in the event of a crash.
- Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle.
- Yield to pedestrians, just as a driver would. Pedestrians have the right-of-way within marked or unmarked crosswalks at intersections.

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