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New Detroit Area Non-Profit Takes Kids Off-Road to Build Confidence.

Dearborn Heights, MI, September 16, 2002 – After tutoring children in Detroit for several years, Dave Hurst is now using his love of mountain biking to teach confidence and self-esteem to low income, at-risk kids in the metro Detroit area. He has started a non-profit organization, which uses mountain biking to expose Detroit kids, as he puts it, "to the thrill and exhilaration of being on a bike in the woods."

Each day-long trip teaches kids proper bicycle safety, the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and that overcoming tough obstacles can be fun! The key to the program, according to Hurst, is that the kids will be seeing first hand the benefits of environmental conservation and the importance of one's own actions both on the trail and at home. To help with this, Trips For Kids Detroit trips will feature rides with local police officers and park rangers.

Trips For Kids is a national organization that Hurst discovered while trying to do something similar on his own. "I have always loved getting out into the woods on my bike. While I was tutoring with the Children's Center of Wayne County, I kept thinking that it would be a great field trip for Children's Center kids, since many that I talk to had never been mountain biking. While trying to figure out the logistics of that type of field trip, I stumbled across an advertisement for Trips For Kids and knew it was something I wanted to bring to Detroit."

Trips For Kids helps individuals set up chapters around the country. The national organization provides 5 bikes, helmets, waterbottles and t-shirts to help get each chapter started. Hurst was responsible for getting his non-profit status, insurance, as well as, finding volunteers to help kids during the ride, getting additional bikes, safety equipment and monetary donations.

The trips will be in local parks, such as Maybury State Park, Bald Mountain Recreational area and Island Lakes State Park. Trips for Kids Detroit provide kids with bikes and safety equipment to use, as well as lunches and snacks for the day. Plus every kid goes home with a waterbottle, t-shirt and great stories from the ride. Their first ride is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th in Maybury State Park. Trips For Kids Detroit is still seeking a

children's group to ride with them on the 5th.

If you are interested in having your group participate, or would like to make a donation or volunteer, contact Dave Hurst of Trips For Kids Detroit at 313-724-9499.

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