
Know the Rules, Ride Safe - Program Summary

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Good morning all,

On Saturday, May 16, the Lathrop Police Department Traffic Unit hosted the first “Know the Rules, Ride Safe” youth bike and E-ride safety class at the Lathrop Police Department.

A total of 11 youth registered for the class, including:

- 5 Bicycles
- 2 E-bikes
- 4 E-scooters

Seven youth participants between the ages of 10–16 attended the event, accompanied by seven parents/guardians. Participating devices included:

- 3 Bicycles
- 1 E-bike
- 2 E-scooters

For youth who either brought a device they were not legally eligible to operate or who were unable to bring a device, the Lathrop Police Department provided an alternative bicycle or scooter to allow all participants the opportunity to safely participate in the practical exercises.

Additionally, three families voluntarily utilized the Lathrop Police Department Bicycle Registration Program during the event.

The class included an educational video presentation followed by a group discussion involving both youth and parents. Participants then completed hands-on riding scenarios designed to reinforce traffic safety laws and safe riding behaviors. Scenario-based training included:

- Riding against traffic
- Stop sign operation
- Safely entering the roadway

Traffic Officers discussed several key safety topics with participants, including:

- Riding with the flow of traffic
- Why wrong-way riders are more difficult for drivers to see
- Proper stop sign and red-light operation
- Stopping behind limit lines and crosswalks
- Looking left, right, and left again before entering a roadway
- Why drivers may not anticipate fast-moving riders entering crosswalks
- Traffic laws applicable to bicycles, e-bikes, and e-scooters

Due to the abbreviated advertising timeline, initial registration numbers were limited. In response, the Traffic Unit conducted proactive educational enforcement and outreach related to observed juvenile bicycle and e-ride violations within the community. Parents and guardians were provided information regarding the optional class as an educational diversion opportunity focused on improving rider awareness, rule compliance, and overall traffic safety. To my knowledge, all cited youth offenders attended the class with a parent or guardian and successfully completed the program, resulting in dismissal of the citation.

Overall, the event was successful and provided valuable community engagement, educational outreach, and operational insight for future youth traffic safety programming.

Photos from the event will be on the share drive.

Great work to Sgt. Ly, Lt. Hernandez, the Traffic Unit, Det. Stevens, and thank you to all personnel who assisted with the planning and operation of the event.

Gabby



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