



# YOUTH BIKE SUMMIT 2024

June 14-16  
Lehigh Valley, PA



Community Bike Works is thrilled to announce that we will host the 2024 national Youth Bike Summit, which is scheduled for June 14-16, 2024, at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. We expect the event to bring together 400 youth and their advocates from Earn a Bike and youth cycling programs across the country, with a focus on engaging youth from communities who have historically been excluded from cycling.

YBS2024 will be the 10th Youth Bike Summit. Since 2011, YBS has served as a supportive and inclusive space designed to transform our local communities and strengthen our national movement by empowering bicycle leaders. YBS believes in the capacity of youth to lead and in the importance of a diverse, multi-cultural and equitable movement.

The theme of YBS2024 is Youth Lead the Way. During YBS2024, youth and their adult advocates will participate in a range of plenary sessions, workshops, and rides designed to help youth grow as leaders through the power of the bicycle, all while showcasing the range of riding opportunities in the Lehigh Valley. Environmental sustainability will be a secondary theme, and a conference track will be devoted to the intersection of youth, bicycles, and sustainability.

An exhibit area, including national and local sponsors from the bike industry and beyond, will be open throughout the conference. The draft schedule includes the following activities:

**FRIDAY:** Guests arrive at Muhlenberg College and head out for nearby recreational rides. An evening welcome reception at the Lehigh Valley Velodrome will allow youth to connect while cheering on that night's riders.

**SATURDAY:** An opening plenary session will focus on youth cycling leaders. Then, attendees will choose from riding workshops, including Try the Track at the Velodrome, or a range of classroom workshops. Workshops could include creating safer streets or developing girls' cycling. An evening reception will offer additional networking.

**SUNDAY:** YBS2024 will culminate with a large group ride across the Lehigh Valley, from Muhlenberg College, through downtown Allentown, to the historic Steel Stacks in Bethlehem. A closing visioning session will allow students to reflect on the future of youth cycling.

***"For me, the YBS wasn't just a convention. It helped me grow as a person,"*** said Eilie, who attended YBS2017 and YBS2019. ***"Of course, I learned things related to bike mechanics and organizing bike rides. I also learned leadership skills. Specifically, there were YBS workshops in which we were all strangers. There was the need for someone to break the ice, and I decided I was going to be that person. That experience helped me get my confidence up, which has helped me as I've gone on to college and needed to get to work with people."***

Community Bike Works was chosen to host YBS2024 from among youth bike programs nationally, based on our teens' leadership at YBS2022 in Atlanta. For YBS2024, CBW teens will share responsibility for all aspects of conference planning. ***"There's no better group to lead the Youth Bike Summit than the BIPOC youth of Bike Works,"*** CBW team leader Avery Daniels said. ***"They know better than anyone what young cyclists look forward to at the YBS, and together we have the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of our peers from across the country."***



Community Bike Works attended previous Youth Bike Summits including in Arlington, VA, and Queens, NY. In Arlington, the Sunday group ride took us past major monuments. In Queens, students including Avery presented a workshop on bridging bicycles and poetry!