

Ride Protocol

Roles: There should be at least two adults on the community ride

- Lead: Adult in front who knows the route, is setting the pace, knows the route in order to anticipate upcoming intersections and gives directions to students and volunteers.
- Sweep: Adult in back makes sure the group stays together, acts as an encouragement to struggling students, and passes important information to lead.
- Extra volunteers: Adults sprinkled throughout the line encouraging students, and passing the line on the left to support lead at intersections.

On-street guidelines:

- Always place an adult at any intersection in which the group does not have the right-of-way, including left turns and uncontrolled intersections.
- When stopping at a stop light, especially at a busy intersection:

Sweep: Rides up front to the traffic light and stays there to aid students crossing. Stops riders when the light turns yellow and waits with the remaining riders until the light turns green again.

Lead: Rides through the intersection with students. Once across, stop where there is a good place to pull over and wait for the rest of the group. Keep an eye/ear out to stop the line in case the group gets divided. Give enough room on either side of the intersection to make sure there is no congestion in the middle.

Helpful reminders to students are: "Watch the light!" and point at the light as they pass through the intersection.

- When stopping at a stop sign:

Sweep: Rides up front to the stop sign and stays there to aid students crossing. Reminds students to use proper stopping and signaling techniques.

Lead: If the Sweep is not at the stop sign yet, can send students across the intersection if there is a good place for them to pull over once they have gone through. Once the Sweep shows up, the Lead continues through to meet the front of the group.



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- If the teacher stops traffic when crossing a busy street with a group of students, the class must get off their bikes and walk across as pedestrians.
- When an emergency is encountered, instruct students to leave the street and sit in a safe place off the street out of traffic and wait for instruction from the teacher. We call this an *emergency drill*.
- Follow all laws, and ALPACA principles. Be mindful that students learn more from our role model behavior than our words.
- Do not direct traffic, if you observe a potential dangerous situation, redirect or stop students, and make sure you talk about the situation once danger has passed. Only law enforcement and trained flaggers have the power to direct traffic.
- When stopping at an intersection, the Sweep should wait at the intersection until the last student has come to a full stop and proceeds through the intersection. Don't let students fall behind the Sweep.

Leading best practice:

- On the community ride, the Lead may stop to watch an intersection while waiting for another adult to arrive. Make sure that you have scouted a landmark to send the students to as they safely go through the intersection. For example, "Ronaldo, after you make a safe decision and go through this intersection, please stop at the big tree by the red car and wait for me."
- The Lead should be mindful of setting a pace that will be comfortable for your class and keep them from getting too spread out. If your pace is faster than that of the slowest rider in your group, your line will get gaps. Set clear expectations that it is not okay for students to pressure the riders in front of them to ride faster.
- Regroup: with a large class, it is common to have bigger gaps. Use intersections and turns as opportunities to re-group and close gaps between students.
- If you re-group due to behavior or emergency situations, be sure students and adults aren't blocking the road or the sidewalk. When you re-enter the street, wait until there's a break in traffic so drivers aren't forced to slow down for your group.



Suggestions for route planning and intersection identification for drills:

- Be sure to include stop signs along your route. This helps students practice coming to a full stop and ensures they will go through intersections one at a time.
- Uncontrolled intersections (without posted stop signs) are best for intersection practice drills early on in the unit.
- When setting up intersection practice for a four-way stop, use a two-way intersection for the drill, asking students to treat the other two corners as stops. As the class progresses, use the intersection as a two-way stop intersection.

