

GETTING STARTED

1. Entry requirement: Attend two basic mechanics classes before you begin. (Ask about available classes and options.)

After completing two classes, you are eligible to enroll. Ask or check the calendar for a time that you can come to open shop and enroll in the Earn-A-Bike program.

2. Acquiring your bike: After you have enrolled in the program, pick out a bike.

A staffer will evaluate the price of your bike. You can pay for your bike or volunteer to earn your bike. A volunteer hour is worth \$8. For example, if your bike costs \$80, then you can volunteer 10 hours to Free Ride in order to earn your bike.

If you are going to volunteer, don't forget to factor in time to fix the bike you have picked. Almost all bikes in our shop DO NEED WORK.

VOLUNTEER

1. Log your hours, come often: Don't forget to log your hours in the Earn-A-Bike binder! Also keep in mind that 2 weeks of inactivity means your bike will become available to other EAB participants. (Give us a call if you're still interested and can't come in.)
2. Do the volunteer thing: Ask a staffer about ways to contribute to Free Ride.

Feel free to take your own initiative for any of these tasks:

- Break down bikes
- Sort and repair parts
- Take out metal scrap, trash, and recycling
- Help keep the shop neat (hang bikes from hooks, etc)
- If you know bike mechanics, help others
- Become a greeter to help staff open shop
- Look for general shop maintenance

Feel free to offer up any resources you might have outside of the Free Ride shop (photocopies, sign making, access to a truck, etc.)

WORK ON BICYCLE

1. Fix up your bike: Use Free Ride as a resource to fix up your bike before heading out with it. Feel free to ask staffers for guidance.
2. Get a safety inspection: Have a staffer test out your bike, and roll out!

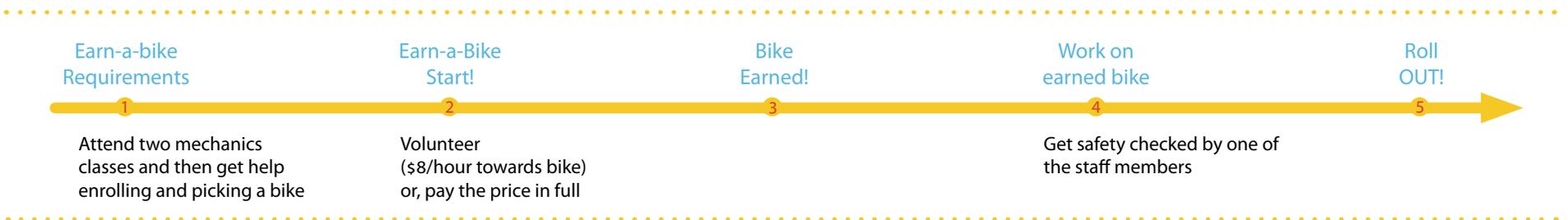
Afterwards, don't forget to...

GET A HELMET!

GET A LOCK AND LIGHTS: We sell quality locks and front and rear safety lights at discounted prices. Ask to see our stock.

Volunteer: We are always looking for volunteers to help staff the shop. You don't have to be a bike guru to work at Free Ride. A lot of us have learned everything we know from volunteering!

Maintenance: Please come back and tune up your bike if you notice anything awry. Regular cleaning and tune-ups are necessary after winter or bad weather. This will prevent any malfunctions that can cause you to injure yourself.



Earn-A-Bike at a glance:

1. Requirements

You attend two basic mechanics classes before enrolling in the Earn-A-Bike program.

Check for details about what classes and options are available to you. Also check to see if any of the requirements exceptions apply to you.

2. Enroll and Pick a bike

Choose your new ride-to-be from among the donated, unclaimed bikes. Agree upon the price with a FR staffer. Fill out some paperwork and learn the rules of the EAB program.

3. Give back to the shop

To pay for your bike, you may volunteer in the shop (\$8 per hour), pay money, or some combination of both. However you do it, you must meet the full price before you take the bike out of the shop.

4. Work on your bike

Use Free Ride as a resource to learn how; you do the repair!

5. Safety check

Your bike must pass a basic safety check by a Free Ride volunteer staffer before you take it away.

Location

214 N. Lexington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412 731 4094
Located inside
Construction Junction

Website:

<http://freeridepgh.org>
Check for shop schedule and hours.

What to expect

Difficulty factor: We want to make sure that the people who start the program are dedicated to finishing. It is not always the best way for everyone to acquire a bike; if you are very busy, or have little interest in mechanics, a yard sale or a bike shop may be a better option.

It takes more time to fix a bicycle than most people think. For this reason, we ask that if you don't have enough time to participate, please wait and sign up when you know you have free time. You will be doing a lot of wrenching, so be prepared to get your hands dirty and solve mechanical problems. We want this to be a learning experience as well as a way to obtain an inexpensive, reused bicycle.

Facilitation: Free Ride is an open community where questions are always welcomed. The environment is supportive. Everybody is encouraged to ask around for help diagnosing bike troubles, finding tools and parts, and learning how to make repairs when something goes awry.

Resources

Books: When the shop is very busy, and the mechanical help is spread thin, we encourage you to take some initiative and try to figure out what might be the next step for you. There are a lot of repair manuals on the shelf to help you out.

Other bikes: They are great resources to help you understand how bikes are put together. Try to find a bike that is similar to yours for reference.

Mechanics classes: Free Ride offers basic bicycle mechanics classes. You take two before EAB and you can take more to help you along the way. Ask a Free Ride staffer or check the website and calendar for class schedules.

EARN-A-BIKE PROGRAM



www.freeridepgh.org

What is Earn-A-Bike (EAB)?

A program to help people obtain and repair used bicycles and learn about bike mechanics. With the help of the Free Ride community and tools, participants fix the bike up to a safe, working condition.

Why EAB?

There are plenty of quality used bicycles that have been donated to the shop. Instead of buying new, EAB gives people an chance to acquire and reuse these bicycles.