

Levels of involvement

You can take part in Free Ride at varying levels of involvement: non-members, members and council members. This is intended to encourage people to take ownership in Free Ride, by providing an easy way to give back in return for concrete benefits. The more you contribute, the more benefits become open to you.

Members volunteer 4 hours every 3 months (quarter). Many hands make lighter the work of keeping Free Ride rolling, and build a large, strong community.

How to become a member: Come to Open Shop and ask the Greeter at the entrance to become a member. You immediately get the benefits of membership. You have 1 month to complete your member contribution. When a new quarter starts (3 months after you join), you again have 1 month to meet the membership requirement in order to keep your membership. If your membership lapses, it is renewed when you complete your membership requirement.

Collective council is the group of members who makes Free Ride's major decisions. It is made up of **members** who show a significant commitment to the organization. Decisions are made through a consensus process, usually at meetings.

How to join the council: Volunteer 16 hours per quarter and come to any two meetings per quarter.

Give more, get more: Each member, including Council members, is responsible to maintain a log of their volunteer or monetary contributions. Credit earned through volunteering may be redeemed for used parts, class entry fees, Earn-a-Bike, and other benefits.

Committees

Committees are groups of members that work on specific aspects of Free Ride, and do the projects that make Free Ride such a great part of the local community.

Each committee meets regularly to discuss its work. Meeting dates and agendas should be posted in the shop and sent out on email – see “How to stay in touch” below. If they are not, visit the website or the shop to ask for contact info.

What does it mean to “give back?”

Giving back helps keep Free Ride running, and earns you credit towards membership, used parts, class fees, or an Earn-a-Bike. We encourage you to volunteer rather than pay cash. But, we know that people’s lives and interests vary; that is why you can pay for all or part of the membership, bike parts or classes.

Volunteering at Free Ride is a way to learn, have fun, and build a community around our common passion: bicycling. People with different skills can contribute in valuable ways.

There are many ways to volunteer:

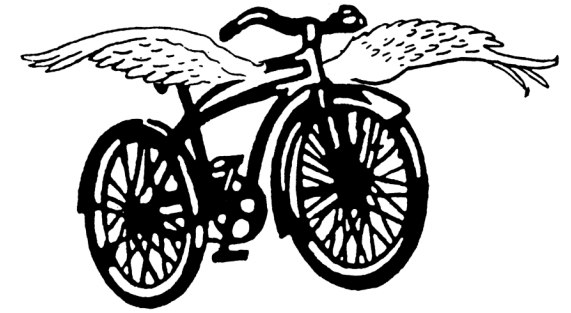
- *Come to Volunteer Night* – this is the time to give back to Free Ride together. People work to keep the shop organized, salvage good parts, and pursue special projects. This a good way to learn more about what Free Ride does and how it works in the community.
- *Help others in Open Shop.* Helping others in any way is very valuable for the shop. For example you could find tools or parts, or offer mechanical help.
- *Self-directed volunteering in Open Shop* – you can do volunteer tasks during Open Shop if you can do it without getting detailed guidance.
- *Be a teaching assistant in classes* – members who have already taken a class topic or have mechanical expertise can help during drop-in classes. You can also train to become an instructor for individual topics or for the entire course.
- *Staff Open Shop or volunteer nights* – We need 2 people per Open Shop shift, and 2 people per volunteer night, to be responsible for opening & closing the shop and orienting new people. People can arrange to staff half-shifts or switch roles within a shift. Inquire in the shop or

email freeridevolunteers@gmail.com if you’d like to be trained.

- *Offer your non-bike skills* – Free Ride needs a variety of skills beyond bike mechanics to keep running. We need people to help with *accounting, community outreach, publicity, social events, construction or electrical projects*, and sometimes *legal advice*. Let us know if you have such skills or interests.

How to learn more and stay in touch

- **Website:** has lots of information about Free Ride. <http://www.FreeRidePgh.org>
- **Email list:** lets you participate in discussions and receive announcements. Notices of when we need Open Shop staffers are sent to this list. To join, email: free-ride-volunteers-owner@lists.andrew.cmu.edu
- **Crabgrass wiki:** a Web resource for focused discussions & summaries. Go to the Web site, register, and ask for an invite (say that you are a Free Ride member). https://we.riseup.net/freeride_council
- **General meetings:** held once a month, usually on the second Sunday at 1 pm. Location and agenda are emailed to the volunteer list. All are welcome. Come to learn more and offer your ideas.
- **Join a committee.** See reverse side for more info on committees.



Free Ride

Bike recycling collective

How our community-run collective works, and how you can get involved!

Our Mission: Free Ride is dedicated to enabling people of all ages to obtain, recycle and learn how to maintain bicycles. We aim to enhance the health of our community and environment by promoting bicycle transportation.

Principles

- Free Ride operates without a hierarchy and is respectful of all people.
- Free Ride is supported and operated by the community of people who use it.
- All shop visitors are respected and encouraged to learn, regardless of their experience level or background.
- All participants benefit from, and in return give back to, the Free Ride community in some way.