



**Youth en Route**

*Pedal your path.*

**Youth en Route presents**  
**CycleFest 2026**

Inaugural Community Cycling Festival

June 6, 2026 | Downtown Calgary

# Our Story Matters

## Why does Youth en Route exist?

Youth en Route is a Calgary-based charity working to ensure that young people have the confidence, skills, and access to move safely and independently through their city. We believe mobility supports independence, connection, and lifelong wellbeing — and that every young person deserves the opportunity to get where they need to go.



# Our Mission

***Empowering youth through mobility, access, and confidence***



Youth en Route works to ensure that young people have the skills, confidence, and access needed to move safely and independently through their city. By removing barriers to active transportation and centring youth voices, the organization supports lifelong wellbeing, connection, and opportunity. Mobility is more than movement — it is a foundation for independence, participation, and belonging.



# The Challenge We're Addressing

Many young people face barriers to active transportation, including cost, lack of access to equipment, limited skills, and concerns around safety. These barriers can restrict independence, participation, and opportunity.



# Why CycleFest Was Created

CycleFest was created as a public extension of Youth en Route's work — bringing our programs, values, and community partnerships into a shared, welcoming space. It creates a low-barrier entry point for youth and families to experience cycling as safe, accessible, and joyful.





***“Bikes really are freedom. Once we teach the basic balance and control, then take them for a short ride in their community, teens discover bikes are a joyful, fun way to get around, and it’s easier than they thought it was going to be. Bikes open doors to experiences and opportunities for everyone.”***

*-Laura Shutiak, Executive Director, Youth en Route*

# What Is CycleFest 2026

CycleFest 2026 is Youth en Route's inaugural, free, family-friendly cycling festival in downtown Calgary. The event celebrates youth mobility, active transportation, and community connection through hands-on learning and shared experiences.



# What to Expect

CycleFest brings together youth, families, educators, and community partners for a full day of programming, including learn-to-bike opportunities, bike tune-ups, cycle track tours, safety education, and community-led activities.



# Our Values

CycleFest is guided by Youth en Route's core values: youth leadership, equity and accessibility, safety and skill-building, and community connection. All programming is designed to be inclusive, welcoming, and grounded in real-world learning.



# Healthy & Active Lifestyle

## ***Supporting physical and mental wellbeing through movement***



Youth en Route's work is grounded in the understanding that regular, active movement plays a critical role in young people's physical and mental health. Through cycling education and access to safe, welcoming spaces, CycleFest supports cardiovascular health, coordination, and confidence, while also fostering joy, stress reduction, and social connection. By reducing barriers to participation, the event helps young people and families build healthy habits that can be sustained well beyond a single day.



# Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability

Youth en Route approaches environmental stewardship through practical, community-based action. CycleFest 2026 encourages a shift away from single-occupancy vehicle trips by promoting cycling and active transportation as practical, accessible options for everyday movement. The event builds awareness of Calgary's active transportation infrastructure and safe routes while partnering with local organizations that advance climate resilience and sustainability. Designed as a shared, low-waste, community-centred experience, CycleFest frames sustainability as an opportunity — empowering people of all ages to experience cycling as joyful, inclusive, and climate-positive.

***Cycling promoted as a net zero, low-carbon, everyday transportation option***



# Social Inclusion

## ***Strengthening connection, belonging, and youth voice***



CycleFest creates opportunities for young people, families, and communities to come together in shared public space. By centring youth participation and inclusive programming, the event fosters connection, belonging, and confidence. CycleFest supports social wellbeing through equity, diversity and inclusion by reducing isolation, encouraging intergenerational interaction for marginalized youth, and amplifying youth voices within community-led active transportation initiatives.



# Economic Equity

## *Reducing barriers and supporting long-term access*



Cost remains a significant barrier to participation in cycling and active transportation. CycleFest helps reduce these barriers by offering free programming, access to equipment, and connections to local resources. By supporting skills development and safe transportation options, the event contributes to long-term financial resilience for families while also supporting local organizations, small businesses, and community partners.



# Our Impact

## *Creating lasting change through access and participation*

Youth en Route's programs support young people and families by reducing financial, structural, and confidence-related barriers to active transportation. Through hands-on education, community partnerships, and inclusive public events like CycleFest, the organization helps build practical skills, strengthen community connection, and encourage ongoing participation in healthier, more sustainable ways of moving through the city.



# Youth & Biking — Key Facts

- 82% of Canadian youth aged 12–14 reported cycling within the past year, a higher participation rate than older age groups.<sup>1</sup>
- Active transportation such as cycling is associated with improved physical fitness and attention in children and adolescents.<sup>2</sup>
- Early participation in cycling helps establish lifelong physical activity habits that support long-term health.<sup>2</sup>
- Youth cycling education and guided riding programs increase confidence and independence when navigating communities.<sup>3</sup>

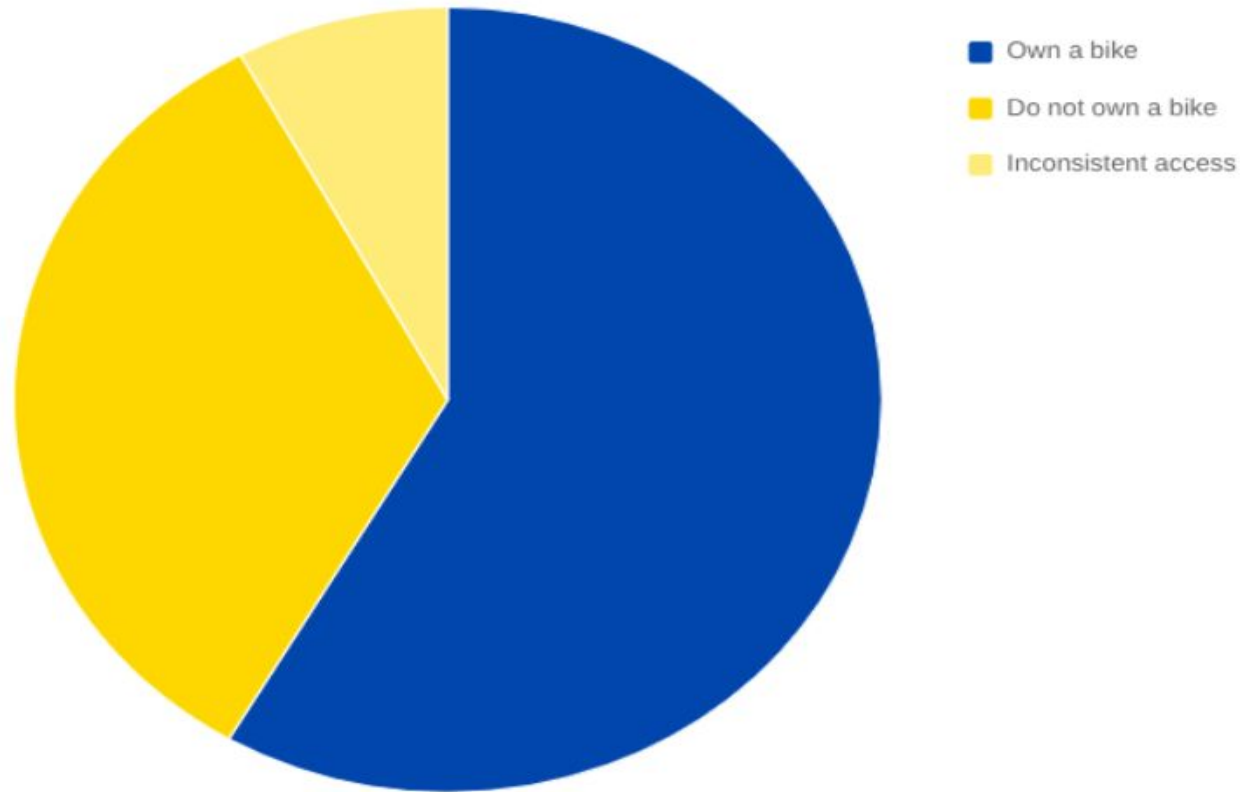
<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey.

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Paediatric Society, Active Transportation & Child Health.

<sup>3</sup> League of American Bicyclists / PeopleForBikes youth cycling research.



# Cycling Access & Participation – Youth en Route Community Survey Results



Source: Youth en Route internal youth survey data.



# Youth Cycling Snapshot in Calgary — Youth en Route Survey

- 59% of surveyed participants report having access to a bike within their household.<sup>1</sup>
- 34% of surveyed participants report barriers to bike access, including cost, fit, or availability.<sup>1</sup>
- 8% report inconsistent or shared access, highlighting the importance of family- and community-based cycling supports.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Youth en Route internal youth internal survey data collected through youth and family programming. averages aggregated across program participants.



# Community Demographics & Participation Context

Youth en Route programs engage a broad cross-section of Calgary's community. Survey data collected across programs provides the following insights:

- Intergenerational participation: children, youth, parents, caregivers, and adult allies participate together
- 60%+ of respondents reported increased cycling confidence after participating in Youth en Route programs
- Nearly 50% of participants identified cost, access to equipment, or safety concerns as initial barriers
- Participants represented multiple Calgary neighbourhoods, including inner-city and equity-seeking communities
- A majority of families reported increased likelihood of choosing cycling for short, everyday trips following participation
- This demographic context supports interpretation of survey results by highlighting both who participates and the systemic barriers CycleFest 2026 is designed to address.



# Who CycleFest Serves

CycleFest serves youth and families from across Calgary, including those new to cycling and those seeking greater confidence using active transportation. While Youth en Route's work begins with youth, CycleFest reflects the reality that cycling skills, confidence, and joy are shared across families, friends, community organizations, and local businesses committed to healthier, more connected communities.



# CycleFest 2026 — Program Overview

High-Level Event Itinerary | June 6, 2026 | Downtown Calgary

## Main Exhibition Stage

Scheduled youth-led programming, community spotlights & facilitated activities

## Learn-to-Bike Zone

Ongoing, drop-in skill-building for youth and new riders

## Kids Bike Tune-Up & Trade-Up

Bike safety checks, adjustments and access to fitted bikes

## Cycle Track Tours

Guided infrastructure tours and real-world safety education

## Community Partners Area

Local organizations, demos and year-round resources

**Note: Programming runs throughout the day with scheduled mainstage programming and continuous activities across all zones. Final timing details will be released closer to the event.**



# Community Impact

By reducing financial and confidence barriers, CycleFest supports youth independence, promotes active lifestyles, and strengthens community resilience. It connects participants to trusted local resources and encourages ongoing engagement beyond the event.



# ► Watch Us Go!



→ *Empowering youth to pedal with confidence — building skills, resilience, and independence through cycling.*



# Sponsorship Opportunities

CycleFest 2026 offers sponsorship opportunities for organizations aligned with youth empowerment, sustainability, health, and community wellbeing. Sponsorship levels range from \$500 to \$5,000+, with opportunities to support specific program areas.



<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Presenting</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Partner</b>
Logo on website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo on signage	✓	✓	✓	—
Booth space	Premium	Standard	Shared	Optional
Speaking slot	✓	—	—	—
Program listing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social mentions	3	2	1	—

# Founding Partners

CycleFest 2026 is made possible through the support of founding partners who believe in creating safer, more accessible communities for young people. Early partners play a key role in shaping the inaugural year of this flagship event.





# Media Opportunities

CycleFest offers compelling opportunities for storytelling focused on youth voices, community-led solutions, and positive approaches to active transportation. The event's downtown setting and hands-on programming create strong visual and narrative appeal.



# Follow Us On The Socials!

 Facebook | [facebook.com/youthenroute](https://facebook.com/youthenroute)

 Instagram | [instagram.com/YouthEnRoute](https://instagram.com/YouthEnRoute)

 X (Twitter) | [x.com/YouthEnRoute](https://x.com/YouthEnRoute)

 TikTok | [tiktok.com/@youthenroute](https://tiktok.com/@youthenroute)

 LinkedIn | [linkedin.com/company/youth-en-route](https://linkedin.com/company/youth-en-route)

 Bluesky | [bsky.app/profile/youthenroute.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/youthenroute.bsky.social)

# Media Contact

Rachneet Randhawa  
Events & Partnerships Specialist  
Youth en Route

Email: [info@youthenroute.ca](mailto:info@youthenroute.ca); [rachneet@youthenroute.ca](mailto:rachneet@youthenroute.ca)

Website: [youthenroute.ca](http://youthenroute.ca)

