



Cycles in Nature 2014

—MONTESSORI YOUTH IN ACTION—

In July last year a group of 8 middle school students from Pacific Crest Montessori School in Seattle, WA set out on their bikes to ride 200 miles to the 2013 International Montessori Congress in Portland, OR. This was the start of something new and powerful with impact reaching far beyond a bike ride. The Portland congress was the first time ever that adolescents were invited—and given a voice—at a Montessori congress. The idea to bike there was inspired by the first Cycles in Nature event held in May of 2013; students from Australia, Thailand, Mexico, the US and Canada spent a day on bicycles participating in a grassroots initiative to build a global adolescent Montessori network. But, most importantly, these students represent the beginning of a movement that empowers Montessori students of all ages to make the world a better place.

The students' participation in the Congress was a testament that it's time to embrace the Montessori youth community in a bigger way. And that's what Cycles in Nature is all about.

It is more than a day of fresh air and exercise. With a dedicated local and global fundraising component, it gives students a way to feel relevant in the world. So, we are dedicating May 2014 to cycle together to:

- Create a network of empowered Montessori youth
- Give individuals the opportunity to feel relevant and have global impact
- Support environmental sustainability and social justice through fundraising

The cycle ride will be a sponsored event, raising money per mile from family and friends, local businesses, grant organizations and everybody in between. The funds will be split 50/50 between a local organization (of each school's own choice) and a global initiative that supports social justice or environmental sustainability. This year's global initiatives are: Children's Eternal Rain Forest Project (Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace) and the Article 15 Foundation, which supports youth in Senegal to find their way out of poverty through education and income generating activities.

Join us! You choose the day that works for your school, then through our website you'll download the resources you need to get started. On our blog students can publicize their event, put their route on the map, share stories and photos, and stay in touch with other schools all over the world. **Learn more and register at www.cyclesinnature.org.**



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