

Mark your calendars for BikeBash13!

In 2012, Lakeland was named a Bicycle Friendly City and we're out to make it friendlier.

The first Lakeland bicycle information fair will be held April 20th, 2013.

Made possible by the City of Lakeland, BikeLakeland and Lakeland's bike shops and cycling groups, the fair will touch on all things cycling. Whether you're looking for opportunities for social or exercise rides or to tap into local resources, BikeBash13 will have something for every rider's needs. Here's a sample of what to expect...

The Info:

Take new bikes for a spin and learn about bike maintenance with Lakeland's bike shop representatives.

Get the details about Lakeland's urban and off-road bike trails from City staff.

Connect to area cycling groups to find rides that fit your lifestyle and schedule.

Speak with representatives of Lakeland's cycling advocacy community and help shape the direction we'll take in 2014.

The Arts:

Children can have fun in the kids' craft tent while you visit the information booths.

Two Urban Art rides will lead riders to Lakeland's downtown public art.

Bring in your decorated bike for a chance to win the inaugural Lakeland BikeStyle award.*

Or, if you like to dress up in Cycle Chic, you may have a chance at the first Lakeland RiderStyle award.*

The Ride:

To open the BikeBash, the Lakeland Police Department will lead city commissioners and the public on a slow ride from Downtown Lakeland to Lake Hollingsworth and back.

The Freebies:

The first 100 children will be fitted with new helmets donated by the Florida Department of Transportation. If you already have a helmet, staff will make sure it fits correctly.

While they last, the City of Lakeland will hand out bike lights, reflectors and other bike accessories for the kids.

The Details:

Saturday, April 27th from 10 am - 2pm at the Bay Street Parking lot (Bay Street and Tennessee Avenue)

Those participating in the morning Commissioner Ride are asked to gather at Bay Street and Tennessee between 8:45 and 9:00 am. The ride should take approximately one hour and is a no drop ride.

Made possible by:

BikeLakeland, The City of Lakeland, Florida Department of Transportation and the Lakeland Police Department

BeFly, Bike Tours, Bent's Cycling, Bike Barn, David's World Cycle, LeRoy's Bikeworks and Road & Trail Bicycles

Polk Area Bike Association, Florida Bicycling Association, Ridge Riders and VeloSwan

* -- All entrants will be photographed during the BikeBash. Winners will be announced on BikeLakeland.com on May 10th.