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Cyclist wants to share joy with disadvantaged kids

Event to raise funds to buy bikes for needy kids

By Jared Eborn

Deseret Morning News

MURRAY — David Zabriskie has pedaled his bike in the biggest races on the planet. He's worn the yellow jersey as the leader of the Tour de France and just a couple of weeks ago was crowned the winner in the time trial race at the U.S. Professional Cycling Championships.

Not everyone has the opportunity to ride a bike, though. And because cycling has meant so much to him, Zabriskie will be back in his hometown Sept. 30 to raise money to provide 1,000 disadvantaged children with a bicycle of their own.

"Cycling has been my life," Zabriskie, a Salt Lake City native and one of only four Americans to ever wear the Tour de France's leader's jersey. "It has provided me with a lot of freedom and taught me that exercise, discipline and responsibility can be fun. I can't wait to see the smiles on the faces of these kids when they get their bicycles."

The fund-raiser has two primary events. A Saturday morning bicycle round around the valley with Zabriskie is the big event, but a fund-raising dinner with the national champ the night before is also on the schedule.

Zabriskie, who is currently training for the world time trial championships in Europe next week, got his racing start along the roads of the Wasatch Front. While this event may not provide the professional cycling scene with the next Zabriskie, it will help hundreds of youths become more active.

"We want to provide kids with an inexpensive and fun way to get to school, a hobby that helps them get some exercise and a way for them to learn responsibility and safety," Debbie Reid, founder and director of Bikes 4 Kids Utah said. "We are very excited to provide a positive education and cycling experience for disadvantaged kids."



Professional cyclist and Salt Lake City native Dave Zabriskie poses with his bicycle at The Canyons. He won the time trial at the U.S. Professional Cycling Championships.

Jason Olson, Deseret Morning News

The ride will come in three different lengths. For beginners and youngsters, there will be a short 5K ride around Murray, beginning and ending at the Cottonwood/TOSH Hospital parking lot with a safety clinic following. Many of the children receiving the



David Zabriskie, of the CSC team, speeds during the prologue of the Tour de France. Associated Press

free bicycles will be making this ride.

More experienced, or just more adventurous, riders can chose the 50K or 100K options that will take cyclists from TOSH into the south end of the valley and then up along Wasatch Boulevard into Salt Lake City before returning to Murray.

Bike 4 Kids Utah is hoping to provide 1,000 bicycles to youths from a handful of schools, neighborhoods and organizations. The Boys and Girls Club of Murray, Rose Park Elementary and the Guadalupe School are among the groups that will receive bicycles.

Reid said volunteers, donors and riders are still needed and can register at the organization's Web site at Bikes4KidsUtah.org.

► **Bike 4 Kids Utah**

When: Saturday, Sept. 30, 8, 10 and 10:15 a.m.

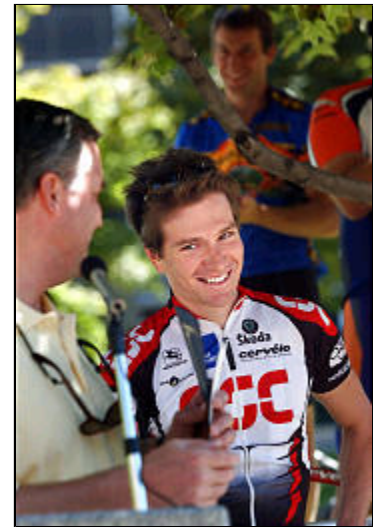
Where: Cottonwood/TOSH Hospital, Murray

Cost: \$50 per rider, all entry fees help buy bicycles for needy kids

Contact: Bikes4KidsUtah.org or 453-2296

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Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon reads a proclamation declaring Aug. 31 Dave Zabriskie Day in Salt Lake County.

Laura Seitz, Deseret Morning News