
Spoke & Word, July 2025

Elijah Evans, Bikes Not Bombs <elijah@bikesnotbombs.org>

Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 6:11 AM

Reply-To: elijah@bikesnotbombs.org

To: "\"Julia Karr\""" <julia@bikesnotbombs.org>

SP^{oke} - & - W^{ord}

BIKES NOT BOMBS

July 2025

Century Challenge

Join BNB for our first ever [Century Challenge](#) — your choice of a **metric century** (100 km / 63 mi) or **imperial century** (100 mile) route. This new fundraising ride celebrates the best components of distance cycling in New England, without the crowds or higher fundraising commitments of other charity rides.

The Century Challenge includes two scenic, semi-supported rides with at least one staffed rest stop and a roving mechanic for support; plus suggested cafe, water, and bathroom stops along the routes. Join us for **group rides** in August to prepare, then rise to the challenge on September 7th! **Register for free** using the promo code **RIDE** at checkout.

Register Today!



All riders will be welcomed to a **post-ride party** on **Saturday September 13th**, celebrating the hard work of our community, on and off the bike. Your fundraising efforts contribute directly to our work locally and globally, at a time when your support is needed to help us advance our critical work. **Challenge yourself to go further and register to ride with us today!**

Riding not your thing? [We would love to have you volunteer with us!](#) Check out our volunteer opportunities on [Bloomerang Volunteer](#) and sign up today!

Great Commuter Challenge



GREAT COMMUTER CHALLENGE!

Explore Boston with friends on a **multi-modal scavenger hunt** designed by our Youth Apprentices! Compete against other teams using your mode of transportation for prizes and celebrate with lunch & refreshments.



Saturday August 16th
10am to 2pm



Join BNB & friends on **Saturday August 16th** to explore Boston and compete in a multi-modal scavenger hunt **designed by our summer Youth Apprentices!**

Teams of 3 to 5 will **pick a mode of transportation** (car, MBTA, or bike) and compete against each other - and the clock - to rack up points on a scavenger hunt en route to our mystery final destination.

Starting point: Bikes Not Bombs, [284 Amory St](#) in Jamaica Plain

End point: Final location will be revealed at the event, but we will be ending in East Cambridge at a location accessible by car, public transportation, and bike.

At the end location, join us for pizza and ice cream while we share our journeys, compare our scavenger hunt wins, and hand out prizes to our winners! **[Make sure you RSVP](#)** using this form before Friday August 15th. We can't wait to race ride with you soon!

Welcoming our Summer Youth Apprentices

As we reach the halfway point of the summer, we're excited to reflect on all of the work done by our summer cohort of Youth Apprentices! We welcomed **23 Youth Apprentices** to Bikes Not Bombs in late June and it's been a pleasure to watch them learn, grow, and try new things across BNB's different programs. Many are returning to BNB, having worked with us during the school year or in a previous summer, now stepping up to lead their new peers through bike refurbs, group rides, and career development workshops.



Apprentices working on their resumes

Working alongside Senior Youth Apprentices and adult staff, Youth Apprentices have honed their mechanics skills, refurbishing bikes to keep for their own use and to give away to Bostonians in need. They've attended community events like **Mattapan on Wheels**, provided critical support at our July **Container Loading** to CESTA, created content for our Instagram account, and have planned our upcoming **[Great Commuter Challenge](#)**! Stay tuned for more highlights to come after an action-packed August!

Container Loading Recap



We had a successful container loading this month to our partners at **CESTA** in **El Salvador**! With the help of **over 45 volunteers** and **12 youth apprentices**, we were able to fill the entire container in just two days! A combination of knowledgeable volunteers, our robust inventory system, and strong standard operating procedures ensured that the container loading was a smooth and efficient process. A special thanks to our volunteers on Thursday whose pre-loading support was crucial to our success!

This shipment totaled **337 bikes** and hundreds of spare parts, mostly adult hybrid and mountain bikes to meet CESTA's current needs. Having a container loading in the summer was also a great opportunity for our summer cohort of youth apprentices to get even more hands-on experience with our global work. Youth apprentices processed, sorted, prepared & loaded bicycles while learning about the history of our global partnerships and the work of CESTA in particular. **Thanks to all of our volunteers, staff, youth apprentices, and supporters for making this happen!**

Bike Shop News

Summer Saturdays have been off to a rainy start, but keep your eyes open for the return of our outdoor shop set up! Enjoy the breeze as you browse our selection of bikes, tools, and accessories inside and out.

Speaking of which, **Haro Bikes are back in stock!** Come check out the new Haro Beasley bikes that have just landed at the shop. If you are looking for the **ultimate commuter bike** this could be the bike for you. Come on down and test ride one today!



Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities



[Great Commuter Challenge](#)

Saturday August 16th, 10am to 2pm

[Tool Time](#)

Fridays August 1st, 15th, & 22nd from 12pm to 7pm

[Saturday Morning Rides \(10 or 20 mile options\)](#)

Saturdays August 2nd, 9th, and 30th, 9am meet-up @ BNB

[Group Ride to Pedal Power @ the Museum of Science](#)

Saturday August 23rd, 9am meet up @ BNB

[Volunteer Night](#)

Wednesdays August 13th & 20th, 4pm to 7pm

[Community Advisory Council Meeting](#)

Wednesday August 27th, 6pm to 8pm

[Century Challenge Fundraising Ride](#)

Sunday September 7th

[Rides with Brothers on Bikes & Women on Wheels](#)

Multiple dates, times, & ride lengths! Check out [WoW](#) and [BoB](#) on Heylo for the latest details on rides & events.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING



August 27th 2025

6-8pm



BIKES NOT BOMBS
284 AMORY ST
JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130



Funder Spotlight: Success Link



*Summer Youth Apprentices
refurbishing a bike*

Join us in thanking the City of Boston Office of Youth Employment & Opportunity for supporting Bikes Not Bombs' Youth Apprentices with a grant through the 2025 Summer SuccessLink employment program.

This grant supports the employment of 8 Youth Apprentices and 2 Youth Leaders who earn wages, build critical workplace skills, and establish sustainable, meaningful long-term career pathways in the bike industry and beyond.

The SuccessLink Employment Program is funded by the City of Boston and is designed to provide youth with a meaningful employment opportunity, as well as provide the necessary tools to learn valuable skills for future employment and transition into adulthood. Thank you for your continued support, SuccessLink!

Staff Spotlight: Wheelie of the Month

July's Wheelie of the Month goes to **Julia Karr**, our Director of Community Engagement! Colleagues note her collaborative spirit, whether she's strategizing around community events, refining messaging for a campaign, or offering input on organizational communications. Her strengths include the ability to manage a high volume of projects, often with overlapping deadlines, and delivering thoughtful, high-quality content that reflects the mission and values of BNB.

Julia has also grown her skillset, as she's taken to working more closely with youth. A colleague notes that "she's taken to working more closely with youth well. While initially apprehensive, it's been awesome to see how she listens, uplifts their voices, and creates space for their ideas to shine. She's building strong connections and helping make our programs more youth-centered in a real and meaningful way."

Congratulations Julia and thank you for your hard work!



Julia with her much-loved, BNB-refurbished bike

Seeking Board Advisors



Bikes Not Bombs is seeking candidates to serve as board advisors. Board advisors provide guidance to the organization, participating in strategic planning and fundraising, and other responsibilities.

Racial equity is central to the mission of BNB and is highlighted in our 2025 Strategic Plan. We seek to more fully represent our community and constituencies, particularly Black and other marginalized people in Boston so as to amplify those voices ensuring equitable participation in the overall leadership and direction of the organization. We actively encourage people with a strong connection to our programs, mission, and the communities we serve to apply.

We are **currently recruiting folks who possess knowledge or expertise in the following areas: human resources, finance, fundraising, nonprofit leadership, management, and racial equity.** We know that there are many more skills that aren't on this list, but these areas are critical for developing an effective board of directors.

If you are interested in applying, please send an email describing your interest, and a copy of your resume to elijah@bikesnotbombs.org in order to receive an official application form.



Donate to Bikes Not Bombs



Our Contact Information

Bikes Not Bombs

284 Amory Street

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

617.522.0222

<http://bikesnotbombs.org>

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Bike Shop & Training Center Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 12pm - 7pm

Wednesday: 12pm - 7pm

Thursday: 12pm - 7pm

Friday: 12pm - 7pm

Saturday: 10am - 5pm

Sunday: 12pm - 5pm