

October 4, 2010 update on the Sterling Spinners:

:

We reached into the scavenger hunt bag for our bike outing for last week. The kids were handed a list of 5 hotels on Main Street, with the letters scrambled. They had to decipher the names of the hotels and organize a course to find them using bike lanes whenever possible. Their assignment was to pick a spokes-person from their group, approach the front desk, introduce themselves, and tell the clerk that they were doing a survey of downtown hotels and they needed a Saturday evening, double-occupancy rate. The spoke-person was then to ask what distinguishes their hotel above all the others on Main Street. The kids did a great job of presenting themselves and exploring a part of Greenville most of them had never seen. The doorman at the Westin Poinsett was a bit skeptical, and he didn't offer us valet parking for our bikes. Btw, the kids unanimously rated the Hampton Inn & Suites the best.

LaSamrae was the only girl on Thursday. (Lele promised me she will ride next week). LaSamarae is a fabulous athlete and she doesn't have any trouble leaving a number of the boys in the dust. She is one of the top junior track athletes in the Southeast, and if she stays focused, it may fund her college education. For staying connected to the group, and for her amazing talent, the yellow jersey goes to LaSamrae. (Btw, this is Sylvia's daughter).

Two pieces of incredible news:

1. I really believe in partnerships, and as I mentioned from a couple of weeks ago, we stopped by FYI—the downtown teen center. They have a new program called Teen Achievers that sets high expectations for kids going to college. Out of our visit to FYI, a couple of our kids are enrolling in this great program.
2. The Sterling Spinners have been invited to participate in the Youth-in-Government program November 18-20 in Columbia—all expenses paid!. They will have the opportunity to sit in the actual legislative chambers and learn how the legislative process works. Our group will be writing bills that relate to making streets safe for cars, bikes, and walkers. How cool is this?!?

As I was mingling among the Sterling Center community last Thursday, several kids approached me and asked how they could get in the bike club, which happens frequently now. There is quite a buzz about this group. Let me know if you have any ideas about making this a sustainable part of the Sterling community.

In the meantime, be well and thanks for your support!

Richard—let me know when you want to engage the kids about journaling! There is more impetus now that they will be participating in Youth-in-Government.

David

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." -Forest E. Witcraft.

The Rev. Dr. David R. Taylor
Assistant Research Professor
Institute on Family & Neighborhood Life
Clemson University
225 S. Pleasantburg Drive
McAlister Square, Suite B 11
Greenville, SC 29607

