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Friends of North Sarasota Library host bicycle safety rodeo

The North Sarasota Library will host the 3rd Annual Bike Rodeo, from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, June 20 in the parking lot of North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota. Advance registration for the 3rd Annual Bike Rodeo at North Sarasota Library is required.

Librarians will teach bicycle safety, with information provided by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, to children age 6-11 and provide free bike helmets while supplies last. Following the class on bicycle safety, riders can practice their skills on a bicycle obstacle course.

"This is always a fun event that teaches children the importance of wearing a helmet," said Kim Eversole, librarian. According to the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute in 2008:

- Non-helmeted riders were 14 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than helmeted riders.
- Head injuries accounted for more than 60 percent of bicycle-related deaths, more than two-thirds of bicycle-related hospital admissions and about one-third of hospital emergency room visits for bicycling injuries.
- 1 in 8 of the cyclists with injuries had a brain injury.
- Up to 88 percent of cyclists' brain injuries could be prevented by a helmet

Last year, 107 bicyclists age 15 and under were killed and 12,000 injured. "With school out for the summer, the number of kids on bikes increases and so does the chance for accidents. The Annual Bike Rodeo is a fun way to teach kids about bicycle safety," said Eversole.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the North Sarasota Library.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the 3rd Annual Bike Rodeo at North Sarasota Library.

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