

Making Errands Green--Max Wins Bike Adventure Challenge

As part of Transportation Tip Thursdays, brought to you by the Barre City Energy Committee, this week we're inspired by Max Laperle (12) of East Montpelier who won this year's "Take a Kid Adventure Biking Month" organized by the team at Vermont Bicycle Shop. Max earned the most points in this year's challenge and had fun participating. He noted that the Bicycle Shop's Adventure month helped him stay active through the pandemic.

Max was encouraged by his Mom, Kelsey, an avid cyclist and a preschool teacher at Barre Town School. She heard about the challenge from bike shop owner, Darren.



In the end, she and Max rode to nearly all the spots suggested on the scavenger hunt. Max noted his favorite was picking up takeout from Fairway and Greens, the first since the stay at home order.

Max and his Mom made the effort to complete the whole challenge which stems from their love of biking and a desire to spend less time in the car.

As Max commented in the interview, "Most moms drink coffee in the morning, but my Mom goes for super long bike rides."

When asked about their experience, both said they wanted to see safer bike routes and more riders around town.

As residents of East Montpelier living on a big hill, bike rides are a workout! Max would like to do more errands by bike, but nearby services are limited and the hilly geography makes it tough to do errands like grocery shopping by bike.

For Kelsey, biking is part of her lifestyle, incorporating regular trips to the bookstore, bike shop, and delivering honey to friends. She's an inspiration to her children, Alicien and Max, and to all on how to bike safely in rural Vermont.



Kudos to the [Vermont Bicycle Shop](#) for leading the way to encourage and expand green transportation options in a fun way.

Thanks to Darren and Ginger for organizing the “Take a Kid Bicycle Adventure” into a month long event. “During this time, when group events are not allowed due to the pandemic, it made sense to turn this annual one-day event into a month of fun for families.”

Darren’s creativity behind the challenge made it fun to participate for both young and old and inspired families to explore and discover how cycling can be a part of their daily routine. “We applaud Max for taking the initiative to earn 97 out of 100 points in completed trips,” says Darren.



Biking is not only fun, but a good way to do daily errands and get your daily exercise in too. Visit your favorite bike shop to get tips and ideas on where to ride.

Contact Darren for more information at Darren@vermontbicycleshop.com, (802) 622-8222, or visit the store in person at 105 N Main St. #102, Barre, VT.

For more bike commuting options and bike safety resources, visit the Go! Vermont page: <https://www.connectingcommuters.org/biking/>. Stay tuned for more adventures coming soon!

Send us your stories about your bike adventures or give us suggestions on how to improve biking in Central Vermont and Barre at barrecityenergycommittee@gmail.com.

#TransportationTip Thursday