

Davis AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization)

FALL 2008 Season Announcement:

Parents and Players,

This email applies to our environmental awareness program.

Davis AYSO will continue with our campaign for bikeable games. Last year, under the supervision of **Steve Brown** and **Joe Krovoza**, we were awarded the City of Davis's Environmental Award for non-profit organizations.

We also received National AYSO's top honor of Platinum Region.

At the National AYSO meeting in May, we were recognized as one of the top 4 regions in the United States. This year we are striving to be region of the year. We cannot do that without the tremendous support of our volunteers.

We are increasing our effort to be more environmentally friendly. This is our initial attempt so please help out if you can.

I would like to thank **Tom Starbuck** and **Kelly Safford** for leading the efforts on this.

They met with the following people who helped put this program together:

Karen and Steve Mo and family (parents are MDs, family practice)
Eileen Tutt (Deputy Secretary, Cal/EPA)
Tim Tutt (Advisor to the Chairman, CA Energy Commission)
Joe Krovoza (Director of Development & External Relations, Transportation, UC Davis)
Mitch Sears (Open Space planner, Sustainability Program Manager, City of Davis)
Sydney Vergis (Senior land Use Planner for Sutter Country)
Lois Wolk (Assembly, CA)
Craig Reynolds (Chief of Staff for Assembly member Lois Wolk)

As you can see we are not dealing with this on a local level only.

This fall, Davis AYSO is starting an Environmental Awareness Program. A small committee has met and discussed goals, and we would appreciate your input and ideas. Our overall objective is to encourage some simple changes that will result in AYSO participants being more environmentally friendly. With this goal in mind, we will launch the program with the **Bike and Bottle campaign**. So far, this is what we have come up with:

Main Goals of the bike and bottle campaign:

1. Have more players bike to practices and games.
2. Encourage players and families to drink from reusable water bottles.
3. Find ways to curb the trash generated from snacks.
4. Encourage bike-pool, and car-pooling.
5. Set up more recycling options on the playing fields.
6. Continue and enhance reuse options for jerseys, shorts and player's shoes.

Biking

On the first team meeting, parents will sign up for volunteer positions as before. **There will be a new parent volunteer position added to each team, called the Green Coordinator.**

The job of the green coordinator is to encourage biking to practices and games, and in general, support the environmental awareness program. During this first meeting, the green coordinator will be given a map so that parents can locate where teammates live. For parents who would like their player to "bike pool" with teammates, they may then brainstorm a meeting spot, which is convenient for all who are interested. If the kids are young, perhaps an adult can bike with the group.

As in the last two years, teams are being formed with kids living in the same vicinity whenever possible. This will make biking to practices easier for kids, since practices will in most cases, be close to the players home. Coaches are encouraged to hold practice at the field closest to the homes of the majority of players, even if it's not the closest to his/her home. If biking is not an option, the green coordinator can help parents match teammates in their neighborhood, and find car pool options for practices, and games.

Snacks

Many teams, especially the older kids, choose to opt out of snacks. For the teams that choose to have snacks, the snack coordinator will have a game schedule on which the parents sign up for the day they are willing to bring snacks. At this time, they will read a list of recommendations for waste free snacks. The coordinator will remind parents of the date they signed up to bring snacks. They will also provide a list of recommendations for waste free snacks. This list will be given to each snack coordinator by the coach on the first meeting day.

Water

Reusable water bottles have been on the market for decades, and Davis City water meets the same standards for water quality as any of the bottled water producers. Discardable plastic water bottles have now been banned by city councils across the United States from city functions and sponsored public events. This list of progressive communities now includes Davis. It is only logical that AYSO should follow suit.

As part of the **Bike and Bottle Campaign** we intend to give each Davis AYSO player a reusable water bottle; something that can be easily carried on a bicycle. Coaches will have a water container so that kids can refill their water bottles at games and practices. **1600** water bottles have been donated so far which allows us to hand out bottles to U8's through U14's.

Through the AYSO **Bike and Bottle Campaign**, we hope to make a significant reduction in automobile traffic at AYSO events by promoting bicycle-based commuting to AYSO practices and games, and generate less waste. In principle, we hope to create long-term habits among Davis soccer players and their families that will translate into smart environmental choices and healthier lifestyles.

If you have any concerns or suggestions that might help this to be a successful program, please reply to the email address: **sustainability@davisayso.net**

Michael Dedoshka
Davis AYSO Commissioner
Region 218