



CUPERTINO



# Cupertino Safe Routes to School



## Winter Safety Tips

### Bike Lighting

Visibility is important for safety. Shorter winter days mean less daylight, and rainy skies mean reduced visibility, day or night. During non-daylight savings times (roughly November through early March), always assume at least part of your ride will be in darkness or rain, and have bright lights for both the front and back of your bike. When riding at night, the State of California legally requires all cyclists to have a front white light and a rear red reflector. We recommend using more than this minimum requirement when it's dark or rainy. I personally use five LED lights, two front white lights, two rear red lights, and one white light attached to my backpack. Look for the brightest bike lights you can find, preferably those that cast a wide angle. Rechargeable lighting systems are easiest to maintain.

### Body Position

Stay relaxed. Ride loose and use your legs to absorb any vibrations created by riding over debris that has been caused by inclement weather. Be alert and ready to navigate around downed tree branches and other hazards that might wash into the bike lane. On wet pavement, which can be slippery, take turns slowly.

## Winter Safety Tips

### Avoid Standing Water

Standing water not only soaks you, it can be incredibly dangerous because you never know what's beneath. It might just be a puddle, but then again it could be a wheel-destroying pothole. When you see standing water, check over your shoulder before moving safely out to 'take the lane'. Only ride through standing water if you can clearly see what's underneath.

### Proper Tire Set-up

Rain water washes all sorts of muck onto the roads, and when your tires are wet, they will pick up more of it than usual. After every ride, it is important to quickly look over your tires, checking for sharp stones, glass, and other debris that might have lodged in the tires. It is wise to use a heavier tire in the winter with a thick tread. Additionally, running your tires at a slightly lower pressure (5-10 psi less than usual) increases your surface area and thus grip on the road as well as comfort.

## Silicon Valley Clean Energy Bike to the Future

Bike to the Future is back from the past! Bike to the Future is a scholarship competition run by Silicon Valley Clean Energy in which high school students design and build an electric bike (e-bike) engaging in hands-on engineering, environmental innovation, and teamwork. Over the course of 3 months, high school teams from all over SVCE's service area design and build electric bikes from scratch and prepare their presentations to compete in the event. Winning teams are awarded scholarship prizes to be divided equally among team members.

While it is a competition, Bike to the Future is also an expansion of bicycle and electrification awareness and excitement! Now that electricity is carbon-free through Silicon Valley Clean Energy, transitioning to electric transportation reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Electric bikes promote clean air, reduced carbon emissions and are a fun, healthy way to travel around town. In addition to providing clean electricity, Silicon Valley Clean Energy is taking on climate change in addressing greenhouse gas emissions in our community. Bike to the Future provides an opportunity for high school students to engage in sustainable and active modes of transportation and tangible solutions to support the growth of clean technology careers!

**Registration is open until January 17**

register here: [www.svcleanenergy.org/biketothefuture](http://www.svcleanenergy.org/biketothefuture)



## Important Upcoming Dates

**Working Group Meeting:** Wednesday, January 8 @ 4:00 pm,  
Conference Room C, Cupertino City Hall, 10300 Torre Ave.

**Working Group Meeting:** Wednesday, February 12 @ 4:00 pm,  
Conference Room C, Cupertino City Hall, 10300 Torre Ave.

## 2019 Photo Highlights



Pilot  
Pedestrian  
Education  
Program @  
Garden  
Gate



Pilot Middle School Bike Skills Class



New Bulbout @ Finch/ Calle de Barcelona



Bicycle Decorating @ Fall Bike Fest

## How to Get Involved!

Interested in helping Cupertino Safe  
Routes to School? Email us!  
[saferroutes@cupertino.org](mailto:saferroutes@cupertino.org)