



## Apply Now for the City of Columbia Walk Bike Ambassador Program!

Do you see walking and biking as important to our community, and want to learn about the health and economic benefits? Have you ever wanted to know how a new bike lane or sidewalk gets built? Have you wondered how you could make more active transportation possible?

**If your 2022 resolution is to be an active participant in community change for walking and biking, join the Spring 2022 Class of Walk Bike Ambassadors.** We are seeking individuals with experience or interest in education, fitness, health, traffic safety, or community activism to serve as Walk Bike Ambassadors that will empower, train, and lead members of their neighborhood and/or community. Individuals may participate in the program as representatives of neighborhoods/community groups or as active citizens with a personal interest.

Individuals who live or work in the City of Columbia and who are motivated to become more informed, effective, and influential participants in planning and policy decision-making are encouraged to apply. Individuals will participate in a brief training series that builds skills around walking and biking promotion and introduces them to local resources to get involved in planning processes in the community. Following this training, Walk Bike Ambassadors are equipped to share their knowledge with others, empowered with a plan for a specific goal over the next year, and prepared for ongoing partnership with City's BPAC and other organizations as a liaison for walking/biking concerns and volunteer for walk/bike initiatives.

To join the Walk Bike Ambassador program:

- **Complete an application [HERE](#) before Mar. 21**
- Participate in the five-week Ambassador Academy, consisting of alternating class sessions and hosted by BPAC and the City (Mondays Apr. 4, Apr. 18, and May 2 from 6-8 p.m.. in person pending COVID-19 trends), group activities (Sunday afternoons Apr. 10 and 24), and the 2022 Open Streets event (Sunday, May 1)
  - Curriculum will include:
    - City's planning processes, including walking and biking plans, upcoming projects and public participation
    - Making the case for active transportation and principles for supporting place-making and safe walking and biking
    - Community walk/bike leadership development, including how to effectively plan, engage, and fund community walk/bike events or projects, and how to advocate for walking/biking issues in your area

Expectations of ambassadors:

- Promote safe walking and biking on streets and trails and advocate on safe walking and bicycling issues, particularly in neighborhood or community group
- Collaborate with BPAC and other Ambassadors to plan a community walk/bike initiative
- Complete one contact-free volunteer shift each year for the City's annual bicycle and pedestrian counts in the area nearest you

Questions? Contact [bpac.columbiasc@gmail.com](mailto:bpac.columbiasc@gmail.com).

