



Skate for Justice

Pledge for Justice Information

www.skateforjustice.org

Contact Justin Holmes

(845)-380-8139

justin@skateforjustice.org

About Skate for Justice

The Skate for Justice is an annual 48.9 mile inline skating and biking event from Binghamton, NY, to Ithaca, NY. This event is designed to raise awareness about the many harms of drug prohibition – the so-called “war on drugs.”

The event started in 2002 with only three participants. Last year, in 2003, 13 attempted this feat, but only 4 finished the nearly 50 mile skate. In this, its third year, we hope the event will grow larger and louder.

Where does pledge money go?

This is, to some degree, up to the athlete collecting the pledge. All athletes must set their pledge calendar prior to collecting pledges. All athletes must adhere to the following schedule:

- At least 40% must be allocated to SFJ operating costs
- At least 20% must be allocated to the SFJ reform fund
- At least 10% must be allocated to a New York State based drug policy reform organization of the athlete’s choice
- The other 30% may be allocated to any drug policy reform or social justice organization or event of the athlete’s choice, to be approved by Skate for Justice.

The Skate for Justice reform fund will strategically allocated to local and state fronts where it is most needed. It will not be used for political campaigning or lobbying. As a pledge sponsor, your business or organization will receive dollar-for-dollar accounting of this fund and the projects it helps via e-mail and traditional mail.

Be sure to ask your athlete for an account of their pledge schedule.

With your help, these funds will help to bring about drug policy reform and social justice in New York, the nation, and the world.



Skate for Justice

Pledge for Justice Form

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Sponsor Name:

Organization Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Policy Reform Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Other non-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Contact Information	Telephone: ()- - E-mail: _____ Address: _____ _____
Pledge Information: (If the pledge athlete is unable to skate due to an injury, the pledge will be applied to the backup. Write "N/A" if you do not wish to pledge a backup skater).	Name of Athlete: _____ Injury backup athlete: _____ Amount per mile: \$ _____ Completion Bonus Pledge: \$ _____
Organization Info	Does your organization have a logo? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, may we use this logo to recognize you? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If available, please provide a URL address to your logo: _____ _____



Local News - Monday, June 23, 2003

Skate for Justice takes to the streets

Group's 49-mile ride protested drug laws

By LAUREN BISHOP
Journal Staff

ITHACA -- In perhaps one of the most unusual ways of protesting state and national drug policies, about 10 teens and twenty-somethings in-line skated all or part of the 48.9 miles from Binghamton to Ithaca on Sunday, wearing stickers and T-shirts that read "Stop the Drug War."

The group of mostly college students who call the Binghamton area home arrived in Ithaca shortly after 8 p.m. Sunday, sunburned and sweaty after a trip that lasted nine hours and 53 minutes, said Justin Holmes, one of the organizers of the event.

Staff of the Lost Dog Caf  on South Cayuga Street greeted their arrival with applause and treated them to dinner at half-off. Other Ithaca sponsors of the event included Sfumato Tattoo, Wownet Digital Caf  and 3-D Light.

So why didn't the group just march or hold a rally, as Ithaca area residents did in May to protest the state's Rockefeller Drug Laws that impose mandatory minimum sentences for many drug crimes?

Participants said the second annual "Skate for Justice" helps combat the commonly held belief that those who advocate for changes in drug policy are lazy or unmotivated -- or, as Holmes put it, that they just "sit around and get stoned."

As a marijuana smoker, Holmes said he's proud that he doesn't fit that stereotype. Beyond that, "Skating 50 miles with a bunch of other people is really cool and a bonding experience," he said.

The Skate for Justice grew out of Holmes' and two other Broome Community College students' involvement with that school's chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

The national organization has about 200 university and high school chapters across the country, including one that likely will be starting at Ithaca College in the fall, Darrell R. Rogers, SSDP's national outreach coordinator, said Sunday.

SSDP says on its Web site that it neither encourages nor condemns drug use. It does attempt to show that the prohibition of drugs has done more harm than good. It also tries to involve youth in the political process and discuss alternative solutions to the nation's drug problems.

Rogers, who drove up to Binghamton from SSDP's headquarters in Washington, D.C. to bicycle from Binghamton to Ithaca, said many SSDP chapters come up with creative events to get their message across.



SIMON WHEELER/Journal Staff

In-line skaters Justin Rueffer, left, Travis Sands and Sean Nosky, right, all of Binghamton, descend New York State Route 79 into Richford in Tioga County, Sunday afternoon as they participate in a skate from Binghamton to Ithaca to advocate for changes in drug policy in New York and the United States.

"I do believe this one takes the cake on physical exertion," he said.

Holmes and two friends skated the entire distance last August, a trip that took nearly nine hours. This year, things moved a little more slowly with rain at the beginning of the trip, some skaters who were making the trip for the first time, one runaway wheel and one brief stop by police who said they were blocking traffic, said Adam Afify, who drove behind the skaters due to an injury.

One of those first-time skaters, 22-year-old Travis Sands of Binghamton, said he wanted to try to make the trip even before he knew about SSDP's mission.

"When I found out the cause behind it, it was just that much more incentive to get involved," he said. He said his feet were numb but that he wasn't as tired as he thought he would be.

Another first-timer, 19-year-old Jacksonville University student Colleen Chamberlain, said she got involved because she knew Holmes from high school and because she agreed with Skate for Justice's cause.

She said she wasn't able to skate the entire distance. If the event takes place again next year, "I think I'll probably take a bike," she said.

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