

Trek/NICA Pathfinders Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

Is this for new NICA teams or for existing teams that want to add student-athletes?

Trek has funded a scholarship for up to 250 diverse and underrepresented students-athletes. In some cases, these may be complete NICA teams, in other cases awards may be made to allow qualified student-athletes to join existing teams.

How does a kid apply?

Teams or sponsoring organizations that want to form teams or have student-athletes that would benefit from Pathfinders should apply on the NICA website [here](#). This program is designed for coaches and organizations to apply; there is no application process for individual kids.

Is Trek paying the coach?

No. NICA coaches are volunteers and this program is no different.

Is Trek providing transportation to and from events?

No.

What do you mean by a sponsoring organization?

We mean a school, a church, or other community-based organization working with an existing or new NICA team to provide stability and resources.

What, exactly, will we get?

Each student-athlete will be provided a hardtail Trek mountain bike, a Bontrager helmet, and Bontrager kit necessary to participate in NICA activities. The exact product will be selected by Trek and may be substituted from time to time depending on availability. Teams will receive a stipend of \$365 per student-athlete, to be used to support student-athlete, coach, and team fees.

Is Trek giving the student-athlete the bike?

We believe it is important for each student-athlete to make a commitment to their NICA team and to the care and responsible use of their bike. We have not yet determined exactly what that looks like, and we will initially leave this to the head coach's discretion and consider which approach works best for future years of the program.

How will awarded applicants be selected?

Applications will be reviewed and selected by a committee consisting of representatives from Trek and NICA, including a NICA league director and NICA coach. In addition, we will ask for input on applications from NICA league directors, as their local knowledge will be invaluable.

How will the kids get their bikes and gear? What if they don't fit?

Trek will work with the head coach of each team that has award recipients to get them the bike and kit. Delivery of the bike will be through an authorized Trek retailer. We will also put a process in place for returns and exchanges.

I live in a state that has a NICA league with a spring season? Are we eligible?

Yes, a second round of applications for teams in NICA spring leagues will open August 1, and be due September 15. The April 15 application deadline is for teams in NICA fall leagues.

We are excited by this opportunity and anticipate having kids that will benefit; but we are just beginning to explore forming a team and don't think we will be ready for the upcoming season. Will Pathways be available in the future?

Our plan is for this to be a long-standing partnership between Trek and NICA to support increasing diversity in youth cycling.