

## Hello Missouri NICA Community!

Welcome to our March 2021 issue. As we approach spring, our team is so excited to bring you the latest news on our upcoming season! This issue provides information on new teams, new coaches, and plenty of new student athletes as our registration process kicks off! A gentle reminder to hit the trails and brush up on your skills as the weather warms up and in anticipation of our upcoming reunions. We cannot wait to see you out there again! Happy reading ...



*Coach Supporter Cody Jones shows off his NICA jacket at a recent Steelville MTB Collective meeting*

## Revvng Up!

Registration for our fall season is now underway! Coach and team registration opened on **March 1st**. Interested in joining one of our current teams as a coach? Contact your nearest Head Coach: [Missouri Teams](#). Interested in starting a new team in your community? Reach out to League Director Chris Mileski at: [chris@missourimtb.org](mailto:chris@missourimtb.org)

Student-athlete registration opens on **April 1st!** Have an interested son or daughter that wants to get involved with youth mountain biking? The MICAL aims to improve the lives of Missouri's youth and communities through interscholastic cycling. The League provides high quality, safe and fun mountain bike programs for Missouri's youth, exposing students to the opportunity to build strong body, mind, and character through an equal and inclusive scholastic-based program. Contact your nearest [Missouri Team](#) to get the registration process started and join in on all the FUN!

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## Welcoming Missouri NICA Newbie Teams!

Thanks to our dedicated communities, the Missouri Interscholastic Cycling League is proud to announce we've added three new teams to our growing roster this season!

**North County Composite** will be headed up by Team Director and Head Coach *Barbara Rowland*. **Mid County Composite** will be coached by *Chris Nitzsche* and will be comprised of student athletes from the Kirkwood/ Webster/ Ladue/ Clayton/ Maplewood and Richmond Heights areas. Our first Illinois team - the **Metro East Composite Phoenix** will be coached by *Justin Allen* and directed by former SCC coach *Brianna Overbey*. The MO NICA family is so excited to welcome these dedicated coaches and the new athletes they're sure to add to our growing community! We're stoked to watch your teams grow and progress this season.



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## Scholarships for Students

The new season has brought a few scholarship opportunities for our student-athletes:

### **The Trek/NICA Pathfinders Scholarship:**

We are beyond grateful to Trek for partnering with us and sharing our common goal of growing diversity in the sport of cycling and providing better access for underrepresented youth. This scholarship will provide select athletes with a Trek Marlin mountain bike, helmet, shoes, accessories, a kit, and a \$350 stipend for NICA league entry and race/event fees.

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a NICA team or committed to become a NICA team for the upcoming season
- Serve or intend to serve student-athletes from underrepresented communities of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds
- Be part of or partner with a community-based organization(s) and/or school(s)

Applications for teams in Fall Leagues are due by **April 15, 2021**, and recipients can expect to be notified in mid-May. For more information and to apply, visit [Trek/NICA Pathfinders Scholarship](#)

### **The Sparkle On Scholarship:**

The Sparkle On Scholarship presented by Kate Courtney in partnership with SCOTT,

Syncros, SRAM, and RockShox recognizes and supports student-athletes who have demonstrated academic and athletic excellence during their time with NICA and will attend college and continue to compete in mountain bike racing.

The scholarship is being created by professional cyclist and NICA NorCal Alumna Kate Courtney to recognize the often difficult transition to college and the challenges of balancing college studies and racing. The ideal recipient is one who demonstrates excellence in the broad sense of the word, not just as represented in race results and grade point average, but in the attitude and effort with which they pursue greatness. The scholarship's core goal is to support student-athletes committed to education and racing by providing financial support and mentorship during the first year of college.

The Sparkle On Scholarship will be awarded to four seniors from NICA leagues and consist of a monetary award of \$10,000 each, mentorship in the form of quarterly calls with Kate during their first year of college, and career mentoring through SRAM. Those recipients without a bike sponsor and committing to race on SCOTT for the year will also receive a SCOTT mountain bike.

The Sparkle On Scholarship presented by Kate Courtney in partnership with SCOTT, Syncros, SRAM, and RockShox is open to NICA student-athletes graduating high school who will attend college for the 2021-22 academic year and are seeking to balance mountain bike racing with college studies.

Applications are currently open and being accepted until **March 31 at 11:59 P.M.** For more information or to apply, visit [The Sparkle on Scholarship](#)

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## Get Your Missouri NICA Gear NOW!

That's right, the Missouri NICA Gear Store is OPEN! Looking to upgrade your wardrobe or rep your favorite NICA league? Then don't miss this awesome opportunity to improve your swag game! The store will remain open until Monday, March 22nd @ 11:59pm. Oh and did we mention **FREE** shipping?

[Missouri NICA Store](#)



Thank you once again for tuning into another issue! We couldn't leave this month without reminding everyone that March is Women's History Month. NICA and the MICL are so proud to have a community of thousands of strong and talented female coaches and student athletes who are eager to show off their skills on the bike! It's inspiring everyday to see such amazing women take on leadership roles in the Missouri community while continually striving to be their absolute best. Be sure to take the time to appreciate a strong female in your life this month!

**Catch you on the trails,**

**The Missouri NICA Team**

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