



## Rim Country Middle School Rides Soldiers Loop by Sabrina Carlson

On August 15, 2015 the Rim Country Middle School Adventure Club had their annual kickoff event at Ft. Tuthill in Flagstaff.

It was a banner year with 27 students and 6 adults arriving with bikes to ride 5 miles of the Soldiers Loop. Before the ride we had a great meeting about ride safety, navigation, group riding etiquette, trail courtesy and Leave No Trace. The majority of the students were brand new to mountain biking and were jumping into their first year with the adventure club.

We set out on the trail counterclockwise, to get the big hill out of the way at the beginning. While a few of the kids decided to head back part way up the hill, most of them pressed on to the smoother part of the trail.

We swooped through the ponderosa pines and past the late summer flowers to finish the ride back by the bike park.



Some of the kids then headed off to try the bike park while others enjoyed snacking in the cool shade of the trees.

It was a very successful kickoff to a New Year of responsible adventures. I was honored to have been invited to join them and look forward to getting to lead them out on the Arizona Trail next month!

**This outing was made possible by grants from**

