

Statesville Police Department Bicycle Registry:

According to the National Crime Prevention Council, @ 1,500,000 bicycles are stolen per year; 50% of these bicycles are eventually recovered by law enforcement but only 2% are ever returned to their rightful owner. From January 1-November 30, 2011, 83 bicycles have been reported stolen to the Statesville Police Department; 43 bicycles have been recovered as “found property” and only 5 have been returned to their rightful owner. Reasons for such a low return rate include failure to report the theft by the owner; insufficient details about the bicycle to positively identify it; no proof of ownership; and failure by the owner to update their contact information so police can locate them in the event the bicycle is recovered at a later date.

The costs associated with stolen and found bicycles are significant, going well beyond the cost of the bicycle itself. Depending on the brand and condition, the average price of a new, adult size mountain bicycle (the most commonly stolen style) can range between \$100 and \$1,000. For some people, a bicycle is their only means of transportation, and the cost associated with replacing a stolen bicycle may be more than they can afford. The amount of time an officer spends taking stolen or found bicycle reports averages 1.5 to 2 hours (including getting to the call, gathering the information, making NCIC entries, storing found bicycles, alerting pawn shops or other locations, and report writing).

The Statesville Police Department has developed a new, convenient bicycle registry to combat this ever-growing, chronic problem. Based on the 2011 Herman Goldstein award winning problem solving strategy implemented by the Transport for London (UK), our program consists of:

- **FREE**, local, real-time database used by law enforcement to quickly identify owners of stolen or found bicycles.
- Maintained & distributed by the Statesville Police Department via Internet / email.
- Optional national registration available via National Bike Registry for small fee.
- Registration methods available: Point of sale location, online via email, in-person at the Statesville Police Department, and at your residence via appointment.
- Use of covert technology to strategically place identifiers and owner applied markings on bicycle.

How does it work?

A. Point of Sale registration.

1. Select merchants have agreed to participate in point of sale bike registration;
2. A copy of a bill of sale and positive, photographic identification (ex: NC driver's license) is obtained;
3. An SPD bicycle registration form is completed;
4. Photographs of the bicycle are taken;
5. The bicycle is assigned a unique SPD tracking number;
6. A visible sticker alerting potential thieves that the bicycle is registered is attached to the frame in a conspicuous area;

7. Several other areas on the bicycle are marked with the same identifying number using permanent, invisible ink which can only be seen using UV black light technology (Coming in 2012);
8. All information regarding the bicycle is forwarded to the Statesville Police Department and entered into a database; Statesville Police Department will contact the registered owner to acknowledge receipt of the registration and entry into the database.
9. Owners will be provided information on how to register their bicycle in the National Bike Registry as well;
10. Owners should store bicycle information, especially the assigned identification number, in a safe, but accessible place in the event the bicycle is stolen or missing, and update the Statesville Police Department of any changes to the bicycle such as new owner applied markings, changes in color or ownership, updated contact information, etc.

B. In person at the Statesville Police Department (and at many Statesville Police Department sponsored community events) or via appointment at your home (within the City limits).

1. Bring the bicycle, a bill of sale and positive, photographic identification to the Police Department;
2. If no bill of sale is available, identify where the bicycle came from in order to allow officers to research & verify the history of ownership;
3. An SPD bicycle registration form is completed;
4. Photographs of the bicycle are taken;
5. The bicycle is assigned a unique SPD tracking number;
6. A visible sticker alerting potential thieves that the bicycle is registered is attached to the frame in a conspicuous area;
7. Several other areas on the bicycle are marked with the same identifying number using permanent, invisible ink which can only be seen using UV black light technology;
8. All information regarding the bicycle is entered into a database;
9. Owners will be provided information on how to register their bicycle in the National Bike Registry as well;
10. Owners should store bicycle information, especially the assigned identification number, in a safe, but accessible place in the event the bicycle is stolen or missing, and update the Statesville Police Department of any changes to the bicycle such as new owner applied markings, changes in color or ownership, updated contact information, etc.

C. Online via email. Simply complete and save the bike registration form and attach & email the required supporting documentation listed in Sections A & B (proof of ownership, proper ID, completed registration form, and photographs) to spd@statesvillenc.net. Once received and entered into the database, we will deliver to you (via mail or drop-off) a registration sticker for you to apply to your bicycle in a conspicuous area. Arrangements to mark the bicycle with permanent invisible ink will be made.

D. In the event the registered bicycle is stolen...

1. Contact the Statesville Police Department immediately in order to file a report of the theft; have your identification number available to allow officers to quickly locate all the important information needed to locate and positively identify;
2. The officer taking the report will issue an alert to other law enforcement agencies, enter the bicycle into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as well as the National Bike Registry (NBR) as "stolen", and quickly disseminate the description of the bicycle and photographs to the various Patrol Squads / Officers throughout the City. Follow-up with online services such as Craig's List and ebay, pawn shop alerts, as well as contact with other law enforcement and bicycle dealers via online information sharing will be conducted by the Statesville Police Department Impact Unit, charged with maintaining the database.

E. When the registered bicycle is recovered...

1. Statesville Police Department will contact the registered owner to arrange for recovery & transfer; photographs of any damage will be documented and used as evidence in the event a suspect is identified and arrested.
2. Should an arrest be made, the registered owner will be subpoenaed to appear in court regarding the charges (possession of stolen property or larceny, depending on the circumstances).
3. If the registered owner recovers the bicycle on their own, notification to the Statesville Police Department MUST BE made in order to update the status in NCIC, the NBR, and to the other law enforcement officers who were to be on the look-out for it.

To determine what type of bicycle you have, visit:

http://www.bikeoff.org/design_resource/DR_bikes_typology.shtml***