

Volunteer Profile



Left to right: Susan Lindell, Sara Elinson, Shay Holloway

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Every September, T.A.'s NYC Century Bike Tour brings thousands of riders along the Shore Parkway Greenway to Canarsie Pier. Dozens of red-eyed volunteers are on site at 6 am to greet them with food, drink and a rest. A notorious all-female mechanic crew from Recycle-a-Bicycle has claimed this turf as their own, and every year they keep hundreds of riders on the road in good repair.

Occupations: Recycle-a-Bicycle mechanic, financial professional and IT consultant

Ages: Susan, 29; Sara, 34; Shay, 44

What neighborhoods do you live/work in? We live in Prospect Heights and work in DUMBO, the World Financial Center and Tribeca.

What do you ride? A hot pink Diamondback road bike, a Fuji RaceLite and a vintage Bianchi SS

Why did you start volunteering with T.A.'s Century Tour? We rode the century in the past and wanted to help other riders accomplish the same.

What were your jobs at the Century? We were mechanics at the Floyd Bennett Field (2005) and Canarsie Pier (2006) rest stops.

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What was your best experience while volunteering? #1: Convincing a rider who had no chance of finishing (he had already had three flats and was riding on duct-taped tires) that he should stay with us and be our “intern.” Shout-out to our intern, Michael Glass!

#2: Helping one of the last riders who said their bike was hard to pedal (the tires had no air and the front wheel was barely attached).

#3: Helping a rider get back on the road who was so appreciative he donated me his vintage blue, sparkly seat bag that matched my blue, sparkly seat.

#4: Watching Shay take over the setup of the Accelerade booth.

What was the strangest experience while volunteering? It’s not really strange, but it’s kind of unique that we are an all-woman pit crew – except for our intern. That, and getting to cut to the front of the bathroom line just for being a mechanic.

Do you share a personal philosophy? *Be one less car.*

Issues that concern you as a bicyclist or walker in NYC? #1: Cars have gotten more and more aggressive on the road – they drive too fast and ignore traffic signals.

#2: Joggers on the Brooklyn Bridge who dart out from behind pedestrians and create hazards in the bike lane.

What’s your favorite public space in NYC (besides Canarsie Pier) and why? Prospect Park – we saw Prince there!

Thoughts on T.A. as an organization? T.A. is so important! It’s a much-needed representative for the biking and ped community. Without T.A., we’d have no voice and we’d continue to be invisible. □

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