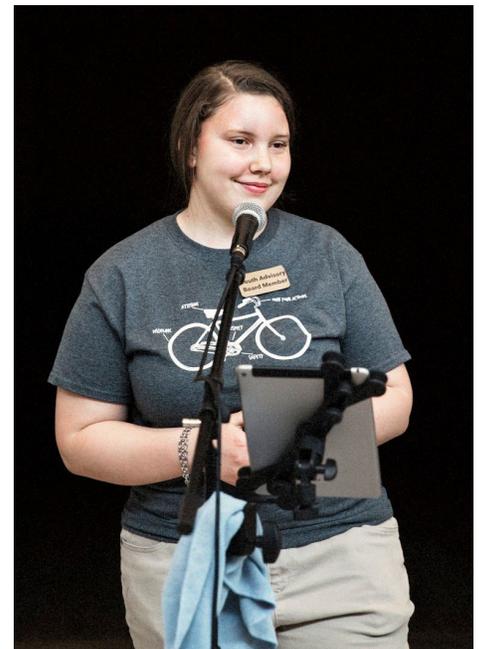


Hi, I'm Chloe. I'm 14 years old and I've been on the Youth Advisory Board here at Open Roads for about a year now. I want to tell you guys about my journey through Open Roads so far and where I am now.

When I first heard of the program I was about 9 years old. I was in an Earn-a-Bike program at El Sol Elementary with Keith and Christine as my Instructors. I honestly didn't like the program to begin with and had a hard time getting excited about it, but one day Christine came up to me and we had a little talk before I decided she was actually pretty cool, so after that I wanted to be there and continue with the rest of the program. I get along well with Keith now, but at first I had a hard time connecting with him. I had just not met anyone quite like him and his mustache took some getting used to. So in that first program, I ended up earning my bike and I ended up working harder than I usually would in many situations.

I love that the program does things that help people become more self-sufficient. I especially like the summer fix programs we do because even if you didn't know your bike needed a fix up, you could get it checked out and learn to do it yourself.

One time after my Earn-a-Bike program me and my family were riding around the neighborhood and noticed the Open Roads staff were doing one of the Vine neighborhood fixes, so we stopped by and my little brother got his bike tuned up. That whole summer after that I kept running into Erin and Christine, so then I was thinking to myself, this is probably a sign, and I have to do more with them and see how it goes. That's how I ended up here now. One day I was going to pick up my little brother from school and I saw Erin. So I stayed and



volunteered for a few weeks with that group and at the end of their program me and Erin had a talk and she wanted me to apply and interview for the Youth Advisory Board for Open Roads. So my friend Bri from my El Sol days (who is also here tonight volunteering) helped make sure I got the application in on time. I got invited to do an interview and got accepted to join basically right away.



pause between sentences I am walking proof that at Open Roads we all strive for youth to do better. I was at the Alternative Learning Program when I first started on the Youth Board and everybody was always checking in and making sure I wasn't in any type of trouble or falling behind in academics. Now after having to make sure that I'm on top of everything I'm back at a regular school and I'm proud of myself for doing that work. You can only push someone so far, and the rest of the way has to be their own decision. I got accepted to be the first female Apprentice at the Open Roads shop and just started that job last week. It's going great so far and I think I'll learn a lot working with Keith and Kal.

I love who I work with and the young kids I get to help out here at Open Roads. Thanks for supporting these programs and the kids. I would like to thank you all for coming and hope you enjoy the rest of your night. Thank you!

