

Etiquette and Laws for Ciclovía— the Gonzales Way

Being courteous and safety-minded helps make Ciclovía Gonzales a great experience for everyone. Along with **following applicable California laws and Gonzales ordinances**, observe Ciclovía Gonzales etiquette. Help build good relationships among people there, and we'll learn and get in the groove of Ciclovía Gonzales etiquette and safe practices together!

All Participants

1. **Be alert and courteous.** Stay aware of and show respect to the people around you.
2. **Be respectful of private property**, including homes and businesses. The public street is our playground during the Ciclovía Gonzales event hours —but adjacent private properties are not.
3. **Support local businesses.** Need a break? You are encouraged to support neighborhood businesses along the route. Also support businesses elsewhere in Gonzales before or after Ciclovía Gonzales event hours!
4. **Consuming alcohol or marijuana at Ciclovía Gonzales is prohibited.** This is a family-friendly event. Do not participate if you are intoxicated in any way.
5. **Make the Ciclovía Gonzales route a litter-free zone, and neighborhoods will be eager to have more Ciclovía dates!** Leave nothing behind. Pack your trash, or throw it away in a recycling or trash bin along the route. And if you do see litter, please pick it up so the route is left better than we found it.
6. **Avoid audio distractions.** Safety first! Even runners, joggers, and walkers need to be alert for sounds around them, to keep themselves and others safe. At minimum, leave one ear uncovered. That's required by law for people who bike—and it's Ciclovía Gonzales etiquette for all participants!
7. **Be visible.** Being seen is one of the best ways to avoid a collision with another person. Consider decorating your bicycle, baby stroller or wagon, etc. with high-visibility items, which adds to the festive atmosphere. Bright clothing helps too, such as orange, green, purple, or yellow. You can't go wrong with white!
8. **Pay attention to existing hazards**, such as driveway entrances, storm water grates, and possible puddles.
9. **Pausing to chat?** Part of the fun of Ciclovía Gonzales will be visiting with friends or new people. But if you stop to chat a moment, please move onto a curb or sidewalk, as appropriate—get out of the flow.
10. **Barricade volunteers have a serious responsibility.** Please do not engage them in lengthy conversation. Instead, make use of the Ciclovía Gonzales Information Booth.
11. **Yield to any motor vehicles that are permitted to drive on the route.** These will be emergency vehicles—and possibly, in rare cases, civilian vehicles that have been granted permission by a police officer. Give them the right of way.
12. One way to make this a recurring event is for everyone to share responsibility for learning and following the etiquette. **In a kind manner**, if appropriate to do so, you may wish to communicate with others to help them learn Ciclovía Gonzales etiquette. **Keep in mind that someone may speak another language**, or they may simply not be quick to understand your intended message. Your **tone of voice is as important as your words**. And use good judgment—**don't get carried away or be too authoritarian!** You might gently communicate to a bicyclist on the left by calling out pleasantly, "Stay to the right." If someone is littering, perhaps greet them with a friendly smile and say, "Howdy, litterbug." It's called community watch. It's the community self-monitoring, and when everyone participates, it works. Naturally, communicate any obstacles too, such as by calling out "pothole" or "glass." (*Glass? See what you can do to help clean it up!*)
13. **Avoid conflict.** If you see an angry person, pass on by. Don't engage in shouting matches or with violent people. (And remember: Often people aren't trying to challenge you, they simply don't understand.) If there is a genuine concern, report it to a uniformed police officer or police cadet, or to a barricade volunteer (who can report the concern), or to the Information Booth. **Emergency? As always, call 911.**
14. **Be safe and have fun!**

Only Service Dogs Invited

1. With the exception of service dogs (e.g., for the blind), **leave any other dogs at home** or at a kennel.
2. Service dogs must be on a short leash at all times. Clean up after your pet, as City ordinance requires.

People Who Walk, Jog, or Run

1. Pedestrians are to stay to the right side of the street.
2. Take care not to dart out in the path of a person biking, skating, scooting, or in a wheelchair.

People Who Bike, Skate, Skateboard, or Scoot

At Ciclovía Gonzales, where applicable, people on all forms of people-powered transportation—such as rollerblades, skateboards, or scooters— are generally to abide by the same rules as people bicycling. Skateboarding is not a crime at Ciclovía Gonzales! Nonetheless, a speedy skateboarder or other person whizzing by fast may be frightening to others. Slow down, to help create a friendlier vibe at Ciclovía Gonzales!

1. **Keep to the right**, *except* when passing on the left.
2. **Pedestrians have the right of way.** Yield to people who walk, jog, or run—and yield to anyone in a wheelchair.
3. **Be especially mindful of and courteous to elder adults, children, and differently abled people**—whether they are on wheels or on foot. Ride slowly and carefully wherever they are present.
4. **Don't ride a bicycle on sidewalks.** The streets are yours! No need to consider sidewalk riding (<https://bit.ly/SidewalkBike>) which is officially prohibited by City of Gonzales ordinance anyway (1972 Code § 10.52.130): “No person shall operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk within the city.”
5. **Walk your bike, skateboard, or scooter** if you come upon any narrow path or ramp along the route.
6. **Ride straight, ride predictably.** Avoid sudden stops. Avoid weaving or making sudden turns.
7. **If you need to get out of a cluster of travelers on the street**, look first; then call out to announce it, hand signal, and move out slowly. Unless the situation requires otherwise, move to the right.
8. **Follow California Bike Laws.** For California bicycle laws, plus safety tips, see [bikemonterey.org's](https://bit.ly/LawsSkillsSafety) riding skills, safety, and bike laws section (<https://bit.ly/LawsSkillsSafety>). Following CA bike laws is about more than avoiding a ticket. It's about preventing City of Gonzales getting complaints. It's about leaving a good impression with decision makers and the public, so when infrastructure votes come up, they feel good about supporting more and better bikeways. Observe all laws, including **(a) leave one earbud out, (b) proper lane usage, and (c) helmets for minors.** People under 18 are required to wear helmets by CA law (CA Vehicle Code Div. 11 Chap. 1 Art. 4 Section 21212). And at Ciclovía Gonzales and many Open Streets events, helmets are recommended for all. **(d) Give special attention to laws requiring a brake** (yes, fixies and BMXers, this includes you). The thing is, on CA streets, bikes are illegal without brakes—“bicycles must be equipped with a brake that allows...a one-braked-wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement. CVC 21201(a).” Bikes without brakes are prone to cause crashes in group riding situations. Don't let it happen at Ciclovía Gonzales! We look forward to seeing many fixies and other bikes—just be aware about brakes.
9. **Ride sober.** CA law applies to biking under the influence (BUI), not just driving (DUI). And people who are intoxicated while biking may cause collisions. They can harm other travelers—including other bicyclists—and themselves. Not all events need alcohol to be fun! Even if you're 21 and confident you can drink without becoming intoxicated, drinking's not cool for the Ciclovía Gonzales experience.
10. **Have your wheels ready to go.** Prepare your bike before Ciclovía Gonzales. Pump bike tires, check brakes. Bring a patch kit, spare inner tube, and basic tools in case you or your friends need unexpected bicycle maintenance.
11. **Keep your wheels secure:** Lock up your wheels if you leave them unattended. For theft-prevention tips, see <https://bit.ly/BicycleSecurity>.

Questions? Email: cicloviasouthcounty@gmail.com

Portal page to additional information: <https://bit.ly/CiclovíaGonzales>