

Community Partner: Starkville in Motion

Team name: Spruce Almighty

Team Members: Jordan Jackson, Brian McClung, Belinda McElroy, Samantha Miller, Valerie Penn, Savannah Self, Candice Shegog

The Spruce Almighty Action Team completed 171 hours of service to Starkville in Motion, logged 141 visits, and traveled 215 miles during the fall semester of 2008. The purpose of their work was “to instill knowledge of bicycle and pedestrian safety into the lives of the children at Overstreet Elementary School as well as the students at Mississippi State University. To promote the upcoming ‘Dawg Pedals’ program and audit campus bike rack needs and to encourage exercise through walking and biking.” The Spruce Almighty Action Team addressed their purpose by 1) performing skits in each classroom in order to teach safety rules and precautions to the third graders at Overstreet Elementary, 2) organizing Overstreet’s participation in the National Walk to School Day, 3) alerting on campus cyclists about bicycle safety by the distribution of flyers, 4) making MSU student aware of the ‘Dawg Pedals’ program and provide them with the top 5 bike tips, 5) performing audit of the bike racks at each building on campus. The Spruce Almighty team realized their project benefit to their community partner and stated it with, “Not only did we accomplish our goals through flyers, presentations, an art contest, a walk to school day, and an audit, but we had fun doing it! Each of our projects was intended to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety awareness. During our projects, Spruce Almighty became a small part of the Starkville community. We were able to interact with MSU students, 3rd graders at Overstreet, as well as students from Henderson, Armstrong, and Ward-Stewart schools. We were truly able to see the importance of keeping these people safe.”