The legend rolls on
Go for a ride at Long Island Children’s Museum


The interactive traveling exhibit, created by the Betty Brinn Children’s Museum in Milwaukee, Wis., is a lively installation that enhances the lore of the iconic motorcycle brand.

"The roar of a motorcycle is a sound we associate with the season as many Long Islanders take to the highways to enjoy summer sights," says the museum’s Director of Education Alimos Tournell. "This exhibit lets children get up close with these fascinating vehicles and explore the science behind those exciting sounds."

Three themes areas take riders from the drawing board to the open road.

Visitors can become design engineers and learn how acceleration, speed, friction and gravity affect a motorcycle in motion. Using a series of ramps, jumps and curves, families can build a custom test track and conduct experiments to see what happens when a rider throttles, leans into a curve or descends a mountain road. You can choose a "motorcycle tool" using an interactive world map to learn about the bike’s mechanical systems; solve math challenges and see fascinating destinations.

In the "dealership" component, learn about engine parts and how they work together to create a smooth and safe ride. Step into one of the shops where you’ll find a real-life Harley-Davidson Road King. Then you can peddle your way around the world in a 1949 tour of the factory.

In the "garage" area, learn about and build your own bike. Children learn about safety, care for the bike and what it takes to keep it running. The "garage" also offers a 3D printable motorcycle to build and create your own motorbike parts.

Live to Ride...Ride to Live...explore the Harley-Davidson mystique at a mid-size motorcycle dealership and engineering lab.

In the "factory" section, try your hand at building a custom motorcycle and accessories, including magnetic latches, locks, saddlebags and a personalized license plate. Get that engine revving to give the custom bike a test.

Safety is critical on the road. Role-play as an motorcycle builder, catcher or service person, complete with a "see yourself" monitor and videos that teach traffic safety, aerodynamics, engine assembly and preparing for a test.

Always gear up with a helmet and learn about protective equipment that keeps riders safe. Take a photo with your new bike and remember your visit to the museum.

HANDS-ON HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Admissions: $14 for adults and children. $13 seniors, free to museum members and children under 1 year old. Additional fees for theater and special programs apply. View the LICM events calendar at thelicm.org or call (516) 224-3800.


It’s time to hit the open road. Overall experience. Upcoming programming includes "Ready Set Go!" on Aug. 9, exploring how people have sought out adventure through different means of reaching foreign lands and undiscovered places. Discuss the first motorcycles and let those imaginations go as you use fun materials to create a travel machine for the future.

There’s also a "Road-That’s-Your-Own Motorcycle workshop on Aug. 15, which focuses on customizing bikes. Design and create your own bike to ride around the world, using ramps, different textures and rolling objects, experiment to see how friction works, then create friction-inspired art to take home using paint and a variety of different sized balls.

"Kids are innately drawn to the look, sound and power of these vehicles," Terrill says. "Adults like all those same things, as well as the fact that their children are being introduced to the laws of physics as they create a series of motorcycle ramps, jumps and curves. It’s a perfect choice to combat concerns of a summer learning slide."

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