

Students to pedal for capital

Eight Battle Ground High School students, two from Portland and one from Vancouver, will be heading for the nation's capital June 14 the hard way — by pedal power.

The marathon bicycle ride will cover 3,700 miles and take about 60 days, according to Sid Muzzy, a driver training teacher at Battle Ground High, and coordinator of the bicentennial bike ride.

One of the goals of the trip is to increase public awareness of bicycle safety and automobile driver awareness of bicycles.

To help reach this goal, bicycle safety clinics will be held in many of the towns along the route.

According to Gary Bloomfield, supervisor of general safety programs for SPI, the students will use films, filmstrips, and SPI's Bicycle Driver's Guide in the clinics.

Muzzy will pedal along with the entourage, while his wife and two small sons follow in a backup vehicle with spare bike parts. Every third or fourth day, one of the little ones will

get to ride along on dad's bike.

Riders will have several options for overnight accommodations, including sleeping in campgrounds, youth hostels or churches and school gymnasiums. The riders will visit national parks, museums and other places of interest.

The Battle Ground delegation will wear special jackets made by the school's home economics department, with the school name emblazoned on the backs. It is Muzzy's hope that a jacket can be presented to President Ford at the end of the journey.

According to Muzzy, the riders have been preparing for the trip with an intensive physical training program, including weight lifting and long daily bike rides.

The bicentennial ride is sponsored by the Battle Ground Pedalers, a high school bicycle club that was organized four years ago. During that time, members have ridden to the beach on occasion.

"But we've never attempted anything like this," Muzzy admits.