

AMBUCS AND THE AMTRYKE PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

What does an AMBUCS chapter do?

AMBUCS chapters use a low cost, low time model for fundraising and providing Amtrykes to the local community. Chapters work to provide for small but significant needs that otherwise go unfunded by government or insurance.

How do people receive Amtrykes?

There are three ways to get an Amtryke: through a local AMBUCS chapter, by placing a rider on our National Wish List (for those who do not live close to a chapter) or through a retail purchase.

What is the role of a therapist in an AMBUCS chapter?

Well, it depends entirely on you and your preferences. We have some extremely successful therapist-lead chapters. In many cases, however, the therapist acts as a catalyst and inspiration. They become a vital part of a community-based chapter by helping to select recipients and perform evaluations to ensure the selected tryke will positively impact a rider. All Amtryke evaluations MUST be completed by a licensed therapist. If there isn't a chapter in your area, what's the first step to get Amtrykes for your clients? For most, it's chartering your chapter and hosting a therapist training or Road Show.

What is a Road Show and how much does it cost?

At a [Road Show](#) we bring a trailer full of Amtrykes and show your evaluating therapists how to fit riders to the best riding solution for them. We hold an in-service training on how to fit riders to trykes and then the therapists get to practice what they learned on up to 10 clients. Hosting a Road Show is as easy as securing a location to hold it and inviting attendees—and us (make sure you get on our calendar early)! The only costs associated would be if you choose to rent a location, decorate or provide food/drinks for attendees. So, generally, it is FREE.

From a child's perspective, what happens at a Road Show?

A therapist or volunteer will measure the child's arms, legs and height. Based on those measurements, their therapeutic goals and the child's ability, they will choose a likely tryke. The child will be placed on the tryke, it will be adjusted to fit him or her, and they'll be asked to ride the tryke. Adaptations and different models may be tried until the best combination is identified.

What is a Therapist Training and why would we hold one?

AMBUCS hosts [Amtryke Evaluation & Fitting Training for Therapists](#) (AEFT) all over the country. It is a 7.5-hour course certified by ProCert for 5 CCU for Physical Therapists in [34 states](#). We also seek certification for the course by the applicable state Occupational Therapy board. Your chapter will need trained therapists, comfortable with conducting good rider evaluations. Choosing the right bike will save your chapter time, money and hurt kiddo feelings.

We believe strongly in the importance of therapist training but do have to be strategic in where and when we offer them. It might not be possible to schedule one in your area right away. We have committed, however, to offering the training at least once every other year in each region.

What happens after a Road Show or (new chapter-hosted) Therapist Training?

The new chapter will reach out to the AMBUCS Resource Center and ask for quotes for each of the evaluated riders. Be sure to specifically ask for a quote and include a “ship to” address. You will get back the total amount including shipping...and your chapter’s first fundraising goal! As you are ready, you can call and convert quotes to sales orders.

So, if everyone gets a free tryke, why would I want to start an AMBUCS chapter?

Chartering an AMBUCS chapter is how a community ensures a continuing program to serve their riders. AMBUCS has many benefits for both organizers and recipients.

As an AMBUCS chapter you will receive:

- 501c3 tax exemption status,
- liability coverage for chapter activities,
- Lowest pricing on Amtykes - deeply discounted for chapters.
- all the help provided by the AMBUCS Resource Center (advice, financial assistance, marketing, grant writing, etc.),
- 10 for 10 program – a new chapter receives 10 free matching Amtrykes for the first 10 trykes they fundraise and purchase.
- the opportunity to light up lives

Generally, the discounted pricing and local connections provided by an AMBUCS chapter end up making the wait time for tryke recipients much shorter.

What is the average cost of a tryke?

For chapters providing Amtrykes for all ages (early intervention to adults), the average cost of a tryke is \$750.

How much does it cost to start an AMBUCS chapter?

There is a one-time \$10 fee for each new member. Each member pays \$25 of annual dues. The chapter pays \$104 annually for their member/chapter liability insurance. Some chapters choose to assess chapter dues, but that’s up to you. Depending on what part of the country you are in, you might have nominal District or Regional dues. We’ll be happy to let you know these costs, if you ask.

How long does it take to get a chapter set up?

Again, that’s really up to you. We have had some power performers that are up and running and have already staged an event and given away trykes in two months! Others go more cautiously: starting with a Road Show, recruiting other interested community members, finding funders or hosting fundraising events and then throwing a Giveaway Day where the kids receive their trykes. It tends to work very well for a new chapter to start with two Bike Evaluation Days and two Giveaway Days a year with fundraising in between. Or even just one. ☺ Again, keep the model low cost and low time involvement. Do just enough to get your riders their bikes.

Are there legal issues and other things we need to start a chapter?

AMBUCS enjoys a group tax exemption. So new chapters are quickly recognized as public charities with 501c3 status. We file your chapter information with the IRS so you do not have to worry about this.

AMBUCS Resource Center incorporates each chapter in their respective states and pays the necessary fees for you.

AMBUCS and Amtryke provide many layers of insurance for the protection of our members and evaluating therapists. These include member/chapter liability, product liability, and professional liability for volunteer therapists.

We have a myriad of chapter resources online: from a sample budget to a guide for writing grants. And the AMBUCS Resource Center is always here to help! And, don't forget, there are 158 other chapters making it work every day. They'd be happy to give advice and encouragement.

What if I have more questions before I decide to charter a chapter or plan my first event?

The AMBUCS Resource Center would be happy answer all your questions over the phone or via Skype. We can also get you in touch with an AMBUCS chapter that is set up in a similar format (community-based, therapist-run, school-based, clinic- or hospital-based etc.). They can give you a boots-on-the-ground picture of how it all works and why they choose to do it. Email ambucs@ambucs.org or call 1-800-838-1845 x113 to talk with us or get in touch with an AMBUCS chapter leader.

What is the relationship between AMBUCS and Amtryke?

Amtryke designs, manufactures and distributes its own adaptive trykes. Amtryke is fully owned and operated by National AMBUCS, a 501c3 charity with almost a century of history. AMBUCS has 5,000 volunteer members in 158 chapters in 32 states united by a mission of *Inspiring mobility & independence*. About 85% of our trykes are given away for free through the fundraising and generosity of our members, chapters and other donors.

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