



El Grupo Youth Cycling – 2004 - 2019

History of Organization: “It all began in 2004 by founders Ignacio Rivera de Rosales and Daniela Diamente through teaching a class on riding bicycles at City High School. We had eight non-athletic teenagers (half male, half female) and recycled bikes. It took us nine months to prepare for and accomplish a 27-mile event. The ride took us almost three hours, and for every kid that was the greatest physical achievement of his/her life. Shortly thereafter, youth asked if they could

ride more often and work towards a bigger goal. We had no jerseys, shorts, or cycling shoes, but we grew stronger with every mile. From there, per youth riders’ desires, El Grupo blossomed and continues to grow.” Historical highlights include:

- 2005, Spring: Youth selected the name “El Grupo” = the group in Spanish; riding & outreach at core from the start, collaborating with BICAS and Pima County DOT •
- 2007, Spring: 1st self-contained bike tour and 1st bike race
- 2007-2008: Youth from other schools join; separate from CHS, attain clubhouse, incorporate 501c3
- 2009-2010: Integrate mountain biking, more youth, more events, more outreach •
- Summer 2011: Began Summer Bike Camp program for youth aged 7-14 • December 2011: Head Coach, Ignacio Rivera de Rosales, receives Local Hero Award for work with El Grupo by Tucson Weekly
- March 2012: United Way Award “In Recognition of Fostering the Next Generation of Healthy Youth”
- May 2012: El Grupo & Head Coach, Ignacio Rivera de Rosales, receive “Emerging Champion for Children Award” by Child & Family Resources
- December 2012: Girls only try-out brought ratio to 1:3 female to male for team •
- May 2013: Rider receives distinguished Gates Millennium Scholarship • January 2014: Moved into new clubhouse with 3x the square footage • March 2014: 1st ever Ladies Only Bike Clinic presented by El Grupo team girls • April 2014: Selected as Angel Charity for Children, Inc. Beneficiary • September 2014: Added El Grupito Program for youth aged 8-12
- January 2015 – El Grupo recognized for 1st place team by Women’s Cycling Association of Arizona
- December 2015 – Nationally recognized as “Junior Cycling Club of the Year” by USA Cycling
- November 2016 – Executive Director, Daniela Diamente, honored for leadership “40 under 40 Award” by Tucson Hispanic Chamber
- January 2017 – Started after school bike club at Manzo Elementary; incorporated outreach to Boys & Girls Club
- August 2017 – Expanded into additional 5,000 sq. ft. of clubhouse space – 110 kids in weekly programming
- October 2017 – El Grupo awarded “Most Outstanding Out-of-School-Time Program” in the State of Arizona by the Center for After School Excellence
- August 2018 – Started Bikepacking – a non-competitive bike-packing focused program.
- Spring 2018 – Founders formally announce their transition out and begin planning

- January 2019 – Kate Hiller starts as the new Executive Director, collaborating with founders, staff, and board for next generation of the organization.
- November 2020 Sean Pantellere is named El Grupo Executive Director and brings fundraising and organizational development from previous non-profit roles.