

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Lost/Stolen Bicycle Recovery Program

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office needs you to help us prevent bicycle theft. Perhaps the most important thing you can do (other than always securing your bicycle) is to properly record a brief description of the bicycle (EX: Blue Huffy 10 speed, white handlebar tape) and the **bicycle serial number**. This identifying number is unique to your bicycle. It is stamped into the frame and most often can be found in one of four places:

1. *On the "gooseneck" of the bicycle (that area that supports the handlebars);*
2. *On the underside of the frame where the pedals are located;*
3. *On the frame at the base of the seat post;*
4. *Stamped into the frame at the rear axle;*

If your bicycle is ever lost or stolen, this serial number that you provide to the Sheriff's Office helps us to locate your bike. When reported lost or stolen, this serial number is entered into a computer database that is accessed nationwide by all law enforcement agencies. If your bicycle is found locally or out of state, it can be traced back to you as the owner ***only if we have your serial number entered into the system and identified as a lost or stolen bicycle.***

In the event a bicycle is lost or stolen and we don't have the serial number on file, we still do our best to locate and return the bicycle to its rightful owner. All of the bicycles recovered by the Sheriff's Office are held for 90 days at our Property and Evidence Section. If you are missing a bicycle, we encourage you to report it as soon as possible by calling 582-6200. We also invite you to contact our Property and Evidence Section (464-6391) to provide a specific description of your missing bicycle. We will do our best to go through our inventory and locate your bicycle. In the event we locate a bicycle that might be yours, it would benefit you to provide a "Bill of Sale" for your bicycle or perhaps a picture you might have of it. You can also provide us with distinguishing marks on your bicycle (a scratch or dent for example) that would distinguish it from others of the same make.

Working together we can reduce bicycle thefts and, for those that are stolen, get them back to their owners in an expeditious manner.