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**Real life to feel life**  
The Bronx International Film Festival is group.

ney," a documentary on the offices of the Bronx Defenders nonprofit legal assistance group.

The Bronx Council on the Arts is launching a new program for aspiring young writers. Starting next Tuesday, participants in the Bronx Write Bus Free Summer Youth Pro-

The program is designed for kids ages 12-18. For more information, (718) 931-9500, Ext. 21.  
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# Teens are rolling through slave history

**BY MAGGIE HAYES**

**DAILY NEWS WRITER**

**STUDENTS FROM** the Bronx Lab School have geared up for a 10-day bike trip that takes them to stops on the Underground Railroad, in a journey that combines physical endurance with learning.

The eight rising juniors and their three chaperones left last Friday for the trip, which begins in Maysville, Ky, and ends in Oberlin, Ohio.

"I'm excited to learn about African slave history," said Javier Cebal, 15, of the South Bronx.

To train for the approximately 280-mile ride, the teens and their leaders, Rachel Apple and Joshua Warner, dedi-

calated every Saturday during their spring semester to taking day-long bike rides through different parts of New York. They have biked on Governors Island and in upstate Westchester.

"When you bike, it puts your thoughts in a different place," said Cebal, who has been biking with this group for two years. "It relieves your stress."

Angie Williams, 17, who has been with the group for a year, did not even know how to ride a bike before this spring.

"I had to motivate myself to do something I had never done before," she said, proudly. "And I stuck with it because

it's great exercise. I don't really get a chance to exercise."

Also in preparation for the trek through Middle America, the students spent time learning the history of the Underground Railroad, the secret network of routes and safe houses for slaves escaping from the South in the Civil War era.

They read biographies, such as the work by John Parker, a former slave, and also studied from an Underground Railroad guidebook.

Apple, a history teacher at Bronx Lab, has been involved with the four-year-old Underground Railroad-biking program for three years. She enjoys being able to get the kids

out of the Bronx and give them an opportunity to travel and learn.

"[The history] really resonates with them," she says.

Along with physical and mental preparation, the group also spent months fund-raising for the trip. They received grants from Morgan Stanley, held bake sales and enlisted support from sponsors.

The group will drive from Maysville to a point about an hour outside Cincinnati where they will begin biking about 40-50 miles a day.

Frequent stops will be made along the Railroad route at museums and safe houses. The group will also visit Ohio Wesleyan University and Oberlin College.



**Bronx students tour Underground Railroad sites in the South.** Photo by David Joaquin