

**Motorcycle Riders Foundation Awareness & Education, Inc.**  
**Young Activists Scholarship Winner 2020**  
**Christopher Beals, ABATE of Arizona**

I've put extensive thought into what motorcyclists' rights means to me. I got my answer very easily. I have lived it for the last four years. I got involved with motorcyclists' rights before I had ever sat on a motorcycle. I was introduced to a world where you could be jailed for almost everything. It is not often when the world is out to get you, but in this case... It was.

Liberty made me take up the shield, plain and simple. If we are to be a free society then we must be free to choose and make our own fate. It became the mission of freedom. I believe that every motorcyclist should determine for themselves what safe practices are and what they are not.

The U.S. Constitution allows us to self-govern. Unfortunately, that was suspended for many years if you chose a motorcycle as your mode of transportation. The freedom to ride without bureaucratic overreach is what allows us to set the example for current and future riders. Motorcyclists understand that there is always room for growth and improvement and are constantly looking for newer and safer ways to commute. Motorcyclists need to direct the flow of regulation, not any branch of government.

When liberties and your constitutional freedoms are protected, the proper example is set for the community. When we control the narrative and lead by example it makes it so much easier to spread awareness. Aside from protecting freedom of choice when it comes to helmet use, along with other freedoms, it is our primary goal to spread that awareness to educate riders and non-riders about the safety measures that we create to preserve life and liberty.

You combine all these things; the mission becomes clear and concise. Liberty leads to freedom, which leads to awareness, and awareness leads to overall safety for riders and non-riders. All anyone wants to do is ride without having to worry about losing their life or their right to prosperity if jailed.

There are so many other reasons, but this seems to sum it up as clearly: Motorcyclists' rights equals freedom.