

e-SAVE SOURCE

Youth Voices...Grown-Up Choices!

National Association
of Students Against
Violence Everywhere

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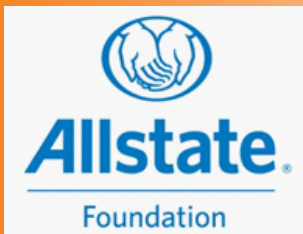
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Teen Driving Safety



Thank you to The Allstate
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Graduation Season Is Just Around the Corner ~ Will Your Teenager Make It Home Safely?

By Thomas Walters

As teenagers anxiously await high school graduation celebrations, nervous parents are hoping their children celebrate safely and responsibly, and make it home safe and sound. Curfews may be broken, seat belts forgotten, and alcohol consumed. What should be a happy time for students might be remembered for all the wrong reasons.

With motor vehicle accidents claiming more than 4,000 teen lives each year, a recent survey commissioned by the Allstate Foundation reveals that many teens do not take personal responsibility for safe driving and continue to engage in dangerous driving behaviors.

The risk for teens is heightened during celebrations such as prom and graduations. Increased distractions like boisterous passengers, cell phones, music, food, drink, nighttime visibility, and general excitement divert the young driver's attention from the road and could lead to dangerous and even fatal consequences.

Allstate encourages teen drivers to eliminate distractions behind the wheel. Texting is one of the most dangerous distractions facing drivers today, particularly among teens, of which car crashes are the number one killer. According to a recent Allstate Foundation study, 49 percent of driving teens admit to being extremely distracted by texting and instant messaging while driving. And, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports driver distraction contributes to 25 percent of all police-reported traffic crashes.



Thomas Walters
SAVE Board Member

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UPCOMING EVENTS



DATE	EVENT	MORE INFO
May 1-31	NATIONAL YOUTH TRAFFIC SAFETY MONTH	http://www.nationalsave.org/main/teendrivingfocus.php
June 1-30	INTERNET SAFETY	http://www.nationalsave.org/main/june.php
June 14-16	LIFESAVERS: 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO HIGHWAY SAFETY!	http://www.lifesaversconference.org/index.html
June 18-20	NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE	http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/?utm_source=National+Service+Briefing+4.12.12&utm_campaign=NSB+2.2.12&utm_medium=email

2011 - 2012 NATIONAL SAVE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

SAVE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR CO-WINNERS:

COMMUNITY CHAPTER: GREENE COUNTY STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE, MAURY, NC
HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER: IRA HIGH SCHOOL SAVE CHAPTER, IRA, TX

SAVE ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

Ms. VICKIE SZAREK, GARNER MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL, GARNER, NC

SAVE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Ms. MIRANDA DAY, BURRTON HIGH SCHOOL, BURRTON, KS

National Youth Advisory Board Search

The National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere will select up to 6 SAVE members for the 2012-2013 National SAVE Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The YAB will be composed of high school students from across the nation who have demonstrated leadership skills and service in their school and community, as well as having experience and service with the SAVE program.

These students should also possess a commitment to the ideals of SAVE. Creative and energetic students are needed to create new materials, plan and attend national workshops and provide the youth voice necessary to propel SAVE to greater achievements. Applying for the National SAVE YAB consists of 2 rounds of application processing. Completion of this form is required for Round One. Applicants moving to Round Two, will be notified in June, 2012 with additional information and phone interviews.

<http://www.nationalsave.org/PDF/YABapplication%201213.pdf>

SAVE Question of the Month:

Please share the SAVE Question of the Month with your SAVE members. The Youth Voices section of the web is a place for students to ask questions and get responses from SAVE members across the country.

May QoM: *“May is National Youth Traffic Safety Month. What can you do to improve the safe driving habits of your peers?”*

Please send your responses to: forum@nationalsave.org

Check out: <http://www.nationalsave.org/forum/index.php> to see your response posted!

Techno Tidbit

Circle of 6: Designed to prevent sexual and other assaults.

Using the free app, people can choose six friends they trust to be in their circle. Among its functions, users can press a button, which sends a preprogrammed text message to their friends. For example, one choice sends a message that the person needs a safe way to get home, along with his or her location.

Check out this link: <http://www.circleof6app.com/>



Monthly Focus: Teen Driving Safety

Thanks to a generous grant from the Allstate Foundation, SAVE has been working with teens to learn wise decision making skills in regards to Teen Driver Safety. May is an important month to focus on driving safety with all the events surrounding the end of the school year such as graduation and prom.

SAVE is a peer to peer organization that strives to increase youth involvement in their own safety efforts. SAVE believes in the power of positive peer influences.

The obstacles faced by today's students are daunting. More than previous generations, today's youth are faced with choices that have true life and death ramifications. Car crashes take a tremendous toll on the emotional and physical health and well-being of our nation's young people, parents, school officials, and law enforcement. One of the most valuable resources that schools and communities often overlook when addressing school and community youth safety is student involvement. By encouraging youth-led solutions, we can empower students to play a key role in fostering safe and smart decisions that will protect the health and lives of our nation's youth. The good news is, as the growing number of students involved in SAVE attests, students are willing to step up to the plate and actively participate in solving this complex problem.

Teen Driving Safety Public Service Announcement - Created by 2011-12 SAVE Youth Advisory Board <http://nationalsave.org/main/YABpodcasts/teen%20driving%20safety.mp3>

Teen Driving Safety Public Service Announcement for Parents - Created by 2011-12 SAVE Youth Advisory Board Advisors <http://nationalsave.org/main/YABpodcasts/Teen%20Safe%20Driving%20Tips%20for%20Parents.mp3>

Teen Safe Driving Resources:

- Allstate: A Resource for Safe Teen Driving
- Getting to School Safely
- Under YOUR Influence
- Drive It Right: Talking to Teens About Safe Driving
- Teen Safe Driving Brochure
- Wreckless/Reckless Poster
- Four Times More Likely Poster
- National Youth Traffic Safety Month Planning Guide
- National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) - National Youth Traffic Safety Month
- (MMWR) Drivers Aged 16 or 17 Years Involved in Fatal Crashes --- United States, 2004--2008
- Parents Are The Key: A CDC Campaign
- Policy Impact: Safe Teen Driving
- Teen Drivers: More CDC Resources
- Join The Conversation On Facebook

For more information and ideas go to: <http://nationalsave.org/main/teendrivingfocus.php>



Katrina Reynolds, 2011 SAVE Advisor of the Year: From the Heart!

According to the National Highway traffic Safety Administration, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in the U.S. On an average, more than 300,000 teens are injured in car crashes each year. Nearly 8,000 are involved in fatal crashes and more than 3,500 are killed! Now I ask you, HOW IS YOUR DRIVING? Have you ever really thought about that question? Well as a parent of a teenager who recently received his first set of car keys, I am terrified when I read these numbers and think my child could be one of the 3,500. So, what do we do about it? I am going to share with you Ira High School's recent tragedy. The event that truly made an impact on our students.

Amber Menefee, this name may mean nothing to you now but after you hear her story I hope you never forget her name. Amber was a 21 year old student attending Texas Tech University. Amber was a very outgoing girl with a lot of friends. She was voted Class Favorite; was a member of the varsity basketball, volleyball and track teams and was very involved in her church. Amber had dreams; one of which was that scholarship to Texas Tech. One night, at a friend's birthday party, Amber got tired and told her friends she was heading back to the dorms. As always, Amber took the same route home, but this time she never made it. According to a witness, an SUV traveling at a high rate of speed, crossed the center line and collided with Amber's car. Amber was killed instantly. That night, 20 year old Erin Reagan, took Amber Menefee's life, her dreams and her future! Erin's blood alcohol level was 0.147, nearly double the legal limit.

We brought Amber Menefee's car to Ira High School to help educate the students on the dangers of drinking and driving. Since then our students are thinking smarter.

As one of Ira's projects for Teen Safe Driving month, the students have compiled a teen safe driver check list. I hope it helps you as much as it has helped our students.

- 1.) Always tell someone where you are going
- 2.) Have your phone with you at all times
- 3.) Don't eat in your car while driving
- 4.) Always wear your seat belt
- 5.) Be aware of all the responsibility that comes with driving a car
- 6.) Be aware of your surroundings
- 7.) Leave earlier, drive slower
- 8.) Don't text while driving
- 9.) Turn the music down
- 10.) ALWAYS, remember that if you have been drinking it's better to call someone and get a ride than to get behind the wheel and take someone life!

From the Heart - Katrina Reynolds

YABer Yak: National Youth Advisory Board Member Jaclyn Morton ~ Highland School of Technology



With prom activities approaching and summer driving near, more and more teens will be getting behind the wheel. The majority of the teens driving will have some sort of distraction, whether it is other people, the blaring radio, or even worse, the cell phone. Most of the high school students in our nation face this temptation on a daily basis. Most of us do not realize the harsh reality that faces us if we do choose to text and drive or drink and drive.

In conjunction with prom or graduation activities, many schools have students pledge not to take part in any drug, alcohol, or sexual abuse on those nights; nor make any destructive decisions behind the wheel, which includes texting while driving. Some schools hold, funding permissible, a mock car crash. This really shows students and the community what could happen if the decision to text and drive, or drink and drive is made.

The average teenager sends or receives approximately 1,700 text messages per month which puts them 23 times more likely to be in a crash¹. On average, one person is killed every thirty minutes (48 people per day²) due to an alcohol related crash! SAVE strives every day to lower these numbers through many activities that your school can take part in and make a difference in your community.

- 1) <http://dui.lifetips.com/cat/61352/drunk-driving-facts-stats/index.html>
- 2) <http://www.drivesafelycorp.com/default.aspx?rd=5027>

Prevention Resources:

BJS Releases 2011 School Crime and Safety Report

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has released, "Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2011," a report that provides data on crime and safety at school from the perspective of students, teachers, and principals.
<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2295>

The Scoop on Vitamins and Supplements

Evidence shows that excessive vitamin and supplement consumption is unnecessary, and many products could be a waste of money.

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2012/03/the-scoop-on-vitamins-and-supplements/index.htm>

HHS and Education Launch New Stop Bullying Website

Building on the momentum the Obama administration started more than a year ago to stop bullying in schools and communities, Health and Human Services (HHS) unveiled a revitalized Stop Bullying website to encourage children, parents, educators, and communities to take action to stop and prevent bullying.

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/>

NTSB to Hold Its First-ever Forum on Measures to Eliminate Substance-impaired Driving

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will hold a two-day forum on substance-impaired driving with the objective to identify actions needed to eliminate related deaths and injuries on American roadways. "Reaching Zero: Actions to Eliminate Substance-Impaired Driving," (May 15-16, 2012, in Washington, D.C.) will be the first forum that the NTSB has held to examine the topic.

http://www.nts.gov/news/2012/120403.html?utm_source=April+10%2C+2012&utm_campaign=Act+Out+Loud%2C+Ntional+Youth+Traffic+Safety+Month%2C+Global+Youth+Traffic+Safety+Month%2C+NOYS%2C+National+Organizqations+for+Youth+Safety&utm_medium=email

Techies Against Distracted Driving

The way we communicate is changing, and this is in large part due to connected devices that give us 24/7 access to not only a cellular communication network, but to realtime data services such as Web connectivity and GPS. How connected is too connected?

http://www.connectedworldmag.com/latestNews.aspx?id=NEWS120404112604603&utm_source=April+10%2C+2012&utm_campaign=Act+Out+Loud%2C+Ntional+Youth+Traffic+Safety+Month%2C+Global+Youth+Traffic+Safety+Month%2C+NOYS%2C+National+Organizqations+for+Youth+Safety&utm_medium=email

"Bee a Buckler" Safety Program

"Bee a Buckler" Safety Program is an organization to increase public awareness of the importance of using safety belts, proper use of child safety and booster seats, and other safe driving practices.

http://www.nawhsl.org/Programs.html?utm_source=April+10%2C+2012&utm_campaign=Act+Out+Loud%2C+Ntional+Youth+Traffic+Safety+Month%2C+Global+Youth+Traffic+Safety+Month%2C+NOYS%2C+National+Organizqations+for+Youth+Safety&utm_medium=email

Funding/Contest Opportunities:

Home Depot Community Impact Grants

Deadline: August 13

Grants, up to \$5,000, are available to registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, public schools, or tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.

<http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/how-we-help/grants.html>

Afterschool Awards (Scholarship)

Deadline: June 25, 2012

The Afterschool Awards is a nationwide contest spotlighting after school achievements for Elementary, Middle School and Junior High students. Students are invited to enter Afterschool Awards between now and June 25th for a chance to win up to \$10,000 in scholarship money!

<http://afterschoolawards.com/>

US Department of Education—Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Programs Grant

Deadline: May 25, 2012

The purpose of this funding is to support counseling programs in elementary, K-12, or secondary schools. Schools will establish or expand counseling programs through hiring qualified school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, or child and adolescent psychiatrists with a goal of expanding the range, availability, quantity and quality of counseling services available.

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/elseccounseling/index.html>

"Get Ur Good On" Grants

Deadline: May 25, 2012

Kids and young adults ages 5-25 worldwide are eligible to apply for a \$500 Get Ur Good On Grant to support youth-led projects.

http://www.ysa.org/grants/gurgo?utm_source=National+Service+Briefing+4.26.12&utm_campaign=NSB+2.2.12&utm_medium=email

Cooking Matters

Deadline: June 8, 2012

Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters® teaches families at risk of hunger how to get more food for their money and better nourishment from those foods as part of the No Kid Hungry campaign to end childhood hunger in America.

https://secure.strength.org/site/SPageNavigator/SOS/SOS_ofl_shoppingmatters_grants

Heroes of Hope Flickr Challenge 2012

Deadline: May 31, 2012

Youth across the country can join the Heroes of Hope Flickr Challenge by uploading a photo of their hero to Flickr.com.

http://www.samhsa.gov/children/flickr_challenge.asp?utm_source=April+10%2C+2012&utm_campaign=Act+Out+Loud%2C+Ntional+Youth+Traffic+Safety+Month%2C+Global+Youth+Traffic+Safety+Month%2C+NOYS%2C+National+Organizqations+for+Youth+Safety&utm_medium=email

Teen Driving Safety by Brian Gonya, Ripon College

A lot of young people are excited to grow up. I was not one of them. I remember worrying about everything from taxes to shaving. One thing I was particularly nervous about was driving. I knew myself well. I was a High School student with poor hand eye coordination, an extreme lack of directional skill, and a tendency to be distracted. I confided this fear to my dad. He laughed and said, "You wouldn't have taken off the training wheels if we didn't make you."

I thought his words over. I went through three stages. Denial came first. I thought my dad had just made something up. I moved on to anger. I was confident that my dad (who raised me) didn't, in fact, actually know me. Finally, I moved on to acceptance. He was right. I realized that stepping out of comfort zones is a huge part of growing up. It took about two minutes of driving before I realized that it is nothing to be afraid of. I suppose I always assumed there was more to it than there really is. I got my license, a Jeep, (a GPS) and was living large.

About a month later, I went to a local gas station to refuel. After successfully fueling my Jeep, I began scrolling through my iPod to find the perfect song. I flipped my car in reverse to get a better angle at the street. With my foot on the break, I debated over which song to play. I let my foot off the break to begin inching towards the street when I heard a THUMP and came to an abrupt halt. It wasn't until then that I realized I was still in reverse. I had struck the car parked behind me. My fumbling with music and coffee took priority to my driving. That is never okay. That particular time, I hit a parked car. I didn't even accelerate over a couple miles per hour. It wasn't until a few days later that I got to thinking...if I damaged a car while going only 2 mph, then what could have happened if I was going 50 mph, 60 mph, or even 70 mph? Say the same thing happened again with a pedestrian, just standing there, how badly would I have hurt her? What if there was no car or lady at all; what if it was -- a stroller?

SAVE's Public Service Announcement about teen driving safety hits a lot of points I should have paid attention to, and then some. First, the announcement says that everyone needs to buckle up. I used to be a serial offender of this. I never used to buckle up. I had a bunch of reasons not to. None of these reasons were good ones. All in all, buckling your seatbelt takes two seconds, and can easily be the difference between a jolt and a concussion, or a concussion and flying through your windshield. That is not even mentioning the ticket you can receive for not buckling up. It is probably just easier to take the extra two seconds to "click it."

When driving, your environment can change in a fraction of a second. When you are on the side of the road waiting for a tow-truck or ambulance, you may wonder if those fries (however delicious) were worth it. My advice is to eat in a parking space. Going through the drive-through and eating in a parking space is still faster than going in.

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Graduation Season... continued

As part of an initiative that started in December 2009, more than 150,000 Americans who have pledged not to text and drive through Allstate's "X the TXT" campaign by adding their thumbprints to a pledge banner as a symbol of their promise not to text and drive. Thumb bands given to participants serve as daily reminders to not text and drive.

While all parents want their child to enjoy graduation, it's important to take preventive measures to ensure children's safety during these high-risk times. To help teenagers make it safely to and from a celebration, Allstate Insurance Company recommends the following tips:

Plan an alternate source of transportation: Arrange for a cab or a limousine.

Limit the number of passengers in your teenager's car: More passengers create more potential distractions for the driver.

Prohibit driving under the influence: Underage drinking and driving is against the law. Make it clear to your teens that if they drink or use drugs, driving privileges will be revoked.

Establish an SOS: Teens make mistakes and sometimes get themselves into dangerous situations. Make sure your teens have a responsible adult they can call if they feel they shouldn't be driving or are riding with another young driver who shouldn't be driving.

Reduce distractions: Make sure your teen agrees not to eat, drink, use a cell phone or text while driving.

Buckle up: Teens, more than any group of drivers and passengers, don't use seatbelts.

Check the condition of your teen's car: Make certain your teen is driving a car in good condition.

For more information on teen driver safety, or other safety topics, contact Wake Forest Allstate agent Thomas Walters at 919-554-0267, or via email at twalters@allstate.com.



Teen Driving Safety... continued

The third part of the Public Service Announcement is often the most overlooked: know the road and weather conditions. Some months ago I was driving in a state other than my own, and I was unfamiliar with the area. To make matters worse, there was heavy fog. It was like navigating through a bag of cotton balls. I was going about forty miles under the speed limit. Slowing down may seem a safe thing to do right? Wrong. Someone behind me may have known the way better than I did, perhaps an 18 wheeler making a weekly trip. Since one could hardly see ten feet ahead, that 18 wheeler could have slammed into my bumper subsequently crunching my car and me. Not only were other drivers a hazard but the fog prevented me from seeing possible turns, debris, or friendly dim-witted deer. Somehow I arrived at my destination safely. If I had to do it all over again, I would not have attempted the trip.

The Public Service Announcement goes on to say that you should never text while driving. Following this advice may save your life; not following this advice may get you killed. Your brain has to process huge amounts of information flying past you as you drive. Your brain then has to tell your feet and hands how to react to every single change. Though it may not seem like it, when you are driving, your brain has plenty of work to do. Whatever the text is about, I can promise you, it CAN WAIT. A text message isn't worth your life.

Last but not least, the Public Service Announcement touches on the issue of drinking and driving. Using a cell phone or eating a hamburger while driving is dangerous, but there is never an excuse to get behind the wheel of a car while under the influence of alcohol. You can always ignore the cell phone or put down the burger. You cannot just "stop" being drunk. To me, the most dangerous part of drinking and driving is the "I'm fine" feeling alcohol can give you. If someone has been drinking and is saying that they are good to drive, they are not. Even if they could make it home safely, the risk of being pulled over and losing their license isn't worth it. Tragically, losing a license is not the worst thing that can happen. Over 10,000 people lose their lives due to drunk driving every year. While driving under the influence, you are not only putting yourself in grave danger, but everyone in the car with you, and everyone in that area. Do not become a statistic. Do not turn someone else into a statistic. Do not drink and drive and do not condone drinking and driving. Period.

Getting a license can be the most exciting thing to happen in a teen's life. The most important thing to keep in mind the inherent dangers of operating a 4000 pound machine at varying speeds – a metal weapon capable of mayhem in the wrong hands. The solution is simple: be the right hands. Know your surroundings, don't be distracted, and never drink and drive. If you follow these simple rules, then your first experience driving will be great! Better yet, you will be implementing habits that will get you far in life, as opposed to getting you into a hospital or morgue.

Chapter Highlights ~

Thornridge High School, Dolton, IL

Our chapter is committed to spreading our message of being non-violent in the school and the community in several ways. Some of the events we sponsor yearly include (but are not limited to):

- 1) Back to School Night Literature Table
- 2) SAVE Awareness Day Assembly Cup Cake Social (introduction to the SAVE program for the school year)
- 3) Homecoming Activities
- 4) Anti-Weapons Display case
- 5) Annual Toy Drive for families in need
- 6) C.E.D.A. community service project in Harvey, IL. to prepare food baskets for families in need
- 7) Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week
- 8) Stomp the Violence Step Competition
- 9) SAVE Week (Four Day promotion of non-violence)
- 10) Teen Dating Violence Seminar
- 11) End of the Year Celebration



And introducing: The SAVE Drill Team!

The SAVE Drill Team is under the direction of volunteers Mrs. Daniels-Jackson and Ms. Juanita Robinson. This team works hard to communicate with students and staff members through stepping that violence is not the answer. The SAVE Drill Team performs in every SAVE assembly and travels with their non-violence message to community programs and other high schools.

Thornridge Save Chapter Advisors are Ms. Robinson and Ms. Ousley.

Dunnellon Middle School, Gering, NE

Dunnellon Middle School SAVE Chapter set up a 'Hands Are Not For Hurting' booth to show elementary school students and seniors alternatives to violence. The Chapter also promoted 'Reading Is Fun When You Need To Escape' by creating bookmarks for and with other students.

Ms. Cynthia Wise is Dunnellon Middle School's SAVE Chapter Advisor.

