



SOUTH CAROLINA

Resource Center Newsletter



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Spotlight on a Partner: SC Walk to School Day Successes

Children at 184 schools across South Carolina participated in SC Walk to School Day (SCWTSD) events this spring! [Click here](#) to browse our photo album of event photos and read below for just a few highlights from around the state. Do you want your school event featured in future newsletters, let us know by emailing your SOC!

Pendleton Elementary and Riverside Middle in Anderson School District 4 encouraged all schools in the district to participate in South Carolina Walk to School Day! They even had the Clemson Tiger mascot, Clemson students and athletes, community members from Pendleton Pride in Motion, and law enforcement officers to escort students at [Pendleton Elementary](#) and [Riverside Middle](#) from park-and-walk meeting locations in the town center!



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State
Coordinator

Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22nd and offers another great opportunity to introduce your students to Safe Routes to School.

By pairing SRTS efforts with an Earth Day event, you can present your students with another way they can help improve the environment: **by walking and biking to school!**

We encourage you to incorporate walking and biking activities into your Earth Day celebration - get creative and put your own

AC Moore Elementary in Columbia celebrated SC WTSD using Walking School Buses. Faculty and staff members, parents and students met at one of the "Human Bus Stops" to walk to school together. Students who were not able to participate on the Walking School Buses were given the opportunity to walk laps in the school gym to increase their physical activity for the day! AC Moore's efforts are a great example of how to incorporate the entire student body by hosting a Walk *to* and Walk *at* School event!

Red Bank Elementary in Lexington used the Resource Center's new [Safety Scavenger Hunt](#) for their Walk *at* School event! Due to the rain, the scavenger hunt was conducted inside the school, but every student was able to participate. Their event was coordinated with their Special Olympic Celebration, so students were able to dance and play aerobic games after the [Safety Scavenger Hunt](#).

Marrington Elementary, of Goose Creek, had more than 125 parents and students participate in a Park and Walk event. Despite the rain, the principal greeted students at the meeting location, and faculty members were stationed along the walking route at selected intersections to help keep the students safe. Parents loved the park-and-walk meeting location and look forward to participating in the next event!

Resource Center News: SC Saris Poster Contest Winner

spin on it!

- Plan another "Walk to School Day" during Earth week, highlighting walking and biking as environmentally friendly transportation methods. Customize our [Earth Walk Flyer](#) to start promoting your school's walk!
- Use Earth Day to launch an "[Anti-Idling](#)" campaign for parents, and encourage walking and biking as alternate methods of transportation that can reduce emissions around your school zones.
- Implement classroom activities on air quality and transportation choices. Students can even track their carbon footprint! Click [here](#) for environmentally friendly lesson plans and classroom ideas.

Highlight on a Friend: National Bike Month Community Events

Columbia: [Columbia's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#) and the [American Diabetes Association](#) have teamed up with SC Safe Routes to School Resource



Congratulations to Summerlyn Thompson of Dover Elementary in North! The Resource Center received more than 20 poster entries from across South Carolina and relied on our [community friends](#) to select our top [three finalists](#).

We accepted votes via [Facebook](#) and email from March 17th-21st, and here are your state winners!

First Place: Summerlyn Thompson from Dover Elementary School

Second Place: Eric Center from Mitchell Elementary in Charleston

Third Place: Alice Boswell Brown from Heritage Elementary in Travelers Rest

All three students that placed in the contest will receive prizes, and Summerlyn will move on to represent SC in the National Saris Poster Contest. Online voting for the national contest will be held April 10th - April 15th. The winner will be announced on April 17th. **Like** the [Saris Facebook page](#) to receive updates on the national contest. Vote for South Carolina's poster!

Upcoming Events: National Bike to School Day and Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

center to offer an interactive skills clinic on Saturday, May 3, at Robert Mills House from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There will be stations to get your bike checked, helmet fittings, as well as stations for riders to work on their bicycling skills. Starting at 11:30, join the Mayor of Columbia for a bicycle ride around historic Columbia. The school with the most participants will win a bike! Also, all participants at the day of the event will be entered in to a raffle to win a bike! Register [here](#) for the event!

Greenville: [Bikeville](#) and [Bike Walk Greenville](#) are teaming up to host a Bike Month kick-off event on May 3rd at the [Swamp Rabbit Café](#). Groups will be promoting bicycle events scheduled throughout the month. Check back for more updates and plan to come out and learn about the bicycle movement in Greenville!

**Grant Opportunity:
Good Sports**

Good Sports, a non-profit organization that provides

Keep up the momentum from SC Walk to School Day by participating in two great events during the month of May!

Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is on **May 1st**.

Crossing guards improve students' safety as they cross intersections on their way to and from school. Crossing Guard Appreciation Day provides a great opportunity to have students and parents introduce themselves and thank the Crossing Guard for helping to keep children safe in your community. Show your school crossing guard how much you appreciate them by customizing a **Thank You Card** (For other Thank You Card options click [here](#)). Allow the students to sign this card or design their own cards and present to the school crossing guard on May 1st!

National Bike to School Day is set for **Wednesday, May 7th**! Individuals, schools and organizations that [register](#) their Bike to School Day event online are eligible to win one of the ten drawings for Schwinn's bike and helmet giveaway. Each giveaway will include **10 bicycles and 20 helmets** to be awarded to a winning school. **Drawings will begin on Wednesday April 16th**. Winners will be announced weekly on the [Safe Routes to School](#) and [Schwinn](#) Facebook pages. To register your school's event and find out who else is riding, click [here](#).

To get ready for National Bike to School Day, review some **Bicycle Safety Tips** with your [students](#) and send home some suggestions for [parents](#) as well. Is it too far or unsafe for bicycle riding to school? Contact local law enforcement to host a bicycle safety presentation for students during a safety assembly. Bicycle rodeos are another great activity to teach students bike safety skills. Check out some more ways to get [local law enforcement](#) involved with your Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program this month. Please contact your local **School Outreach Coordinator** for assistance with planning your National Bike to School Day activities!

youth sport programs with equipment, apparel, and footwear. Consider applying for this grant to further your bicycle efforts. Perhaps start an afterschool biking club and use these funds to purchase helmets for your participating students! To learn more about this grant click [here](#).

Not a Silver Level Partner Yet?

Due to the success of so many schools participating in Walk to School Day events in South Carolina each year, the Resource Center will only be able to provide unique incentives such as the glow in the dark silicone bracelets to **Silver and Gold Level Partners**. As of Fall 2013, Bronze level schools will no longer receive these types of incentives, but they will receive other incentives for participating in Walk and Bike to School Day events.

Click [here](#) to see the requirements to become at least a Silver Level Partner! There is still plenty of time to achieve Silver status before the end of the school year. Please contact your **School**

S.C. Safe Routes to School Funding

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Safe Routes to School program is currently accepting applications for SRTS infrastructure projects. SCDOT has designed a competitive application to assess the need for SRTS programs at schools in South Carolina. The need is determined through evaluation of current student travel patterns, potential participation, physical and perceived barriers to SRTS, traffic issues, crash data, an exhibited existing interest in SRTS, and an understanding of the comprehensive nature of SRTS.

Any school with grades K - 8, a school district, a municipality, or any other government entity may apply, but selected schools must be a partner of the SRTS Resource Center to be considered for funding. Government agencies or organizations may apply on behalf of a school. An application for funding must represent only one (1) eligible school, and only one application per school per funding cycle is eligible. Eligible schools must have been in operation for at least two years prior to the application deadline. Previous SRTS infrastructure awardees and schools built within the last two years are ineligible.

SCDOT will administer and oversee the infrastructure project, and the SC SRTS Resource Center will continue to provide non-infrastructure services and programs.

*Applications for SC Safe Routes to School funding are now available. The deadline for applications is **May 16, 2014**; no applications will be accepted after that date.*

To obtain an application, please go to <http://www.scdot.org/getting/saferoutes.aspx>. Click on the Funding Application tab. Contact the state SRTS Coordinator, Rodney Oldham, at oldhamr@scdot.org should you have any questions.

Outreach Coordinator for assistance.

Like us on


Keep up with the Resource Center this school year by liking us on **Facebook!**

"**Like**" us to stay updated on interesting news articles, upcoming events and different funding and learning opportunities!



The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is a program of the South Carolina DOT

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