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SOUTH CAROLINA Resource Center Newsletter



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Highlight on a Partner: Action Plan Recipients

Congratulations to the three partner schools selected to receive Safe Routes to School Action Plan technical assistance from the Resource Center next school year:

- **Upstate: Palmetto Middle, Williamston**
- **Midlands: L.W. Conder Elementary, Columbia**
- **Lowcountry: Oakbrook Middle, Ladson**

These schools were selected after self-nominating and submitting an application for assistance. Each school was chosen based on their interest in developing a School Action Plan, their current work with SRTS, and the



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State Coordinator: Save-the-Dates for next school year

While the spring semester is full of school activities with the school year winding down, we know that some schools are already planning next year's calendar. Below are some dates to note:

- **October 8, 2014 - [International Walk to School Day](#)**
- **March 4, 2015 - [South Carolina Walk to School Day \(tentative\)](#)**
- **May 6, 2015 - [National Bike to School Day \(tentative\)](#)**

Schedule meetings with your [SOC](#) this

current condition of the school surroundings. Each school's Action Plan will help to establish a long and short-term comprehensive SRTS Plan for the school and surrounding community.

Upcoming Events: Bike Month

May is [National Bike Month](#), and Wednesday, May 7th, is [National Bike to School Day!](#) Schools are encouraged to host events anytime in May. To register your school's event, or to find out who else is participating, click [here](#). Registered schools will be entered into the National Center for Safe Routes to School's weekly drawings for **10 FREE bicycles and 20 FREE helmets!**

Is it too far or unsafe for students to ride bikes to school? Then check out these other creative ways for your school to participate and receive **FREE incentives** for your students:

- Organize a [bicycle rodeo](#) that offers students an opportunity to practice their skills. This event could take place during school, after school or on a weekend.
- Ask your students to bring their helmets to school, watch a [video](#) on helmet safety, and go over [tips](#) on how to properly fit your helmet.
- Invite your local bike shop or cycling club to speak with students on [safe riding tips](#) and how to maintain their bicycles.
- Ask your local law enforcement department to speak with your students about [bicycle safety tips](#) and the state's bicycle laws.

Please contact your local [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with planning your

summer to begin planning your 2014-2015 school year events. Think of new ways to make these annual events exciting for your students. Organize music or invite mascots to participate in your Walk to School Days. In the past, representatives from these groups and organizations have been happy to take part:

- Universities and Colleges including South Carolina State, USC and Clemson, mascots, athletes, and students
- High School bands, mascots, and athletes
- Local Sports Teams' mascots and athletes
- Local Businesses' representatives and employees
- Local government officials and employees

Resource Center News: Progressing to Silver or Gold Level with the Resource Center

The school year is coming to a close. There is only one month left to reach the Silver or Gold Partnership Levels with the Resource Center!

Silver Partner requirements include:

- Completing [Student Travel Tallies](#)
- Holding at least two [SRTS events](#) within the school year
- Hosting an SOC presentation at a school PTA or School Improvement Council Meeting

Gold Partner requirements include:

- Completing all Silver Partner requirements

National Bike to School Day activities!

Grant Opportunity: S.C. Safe Routes to School Funding

The SCDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is currently accepting applications for SRTS infrastructure projects. The SCDOT SRTS Program has designed a competitive application to assess the need for Safe Routes to School 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 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 in order 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**, and no applications will be accepted after that date.*

- Conducting SRTS [Parent Surveys](#)
- Implementing an on-going weekly SRTS event such as "Walking Wednesdays"
- Scheduling a [Safety Walk Assessment](#)
- Developing a [Travel Plan](#)
- Providing Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Safety Education in the classroom or at an event such as a Bicycle Rodeo or Safety Assembly

Find out more about how your school can move up from Bronze to Silver and from Silver to Gold by contacting your [School Outreach Coordinator](#). Click [here](#) to see your school's current Partner level.

Learning Opportunity: Putting the Mettle to the Pedal Webinar

One of our very own partners, Ebenezer Avenue Elementary of Rock Hill, was featured on the National Center's webinar on April 16th. [Click here to view a recording](#) and hear about how Ebenezer Avenue Elementary is engaging 6th grade students in bike safety education and the key partners that have catapulted excitement for bicycling to new heights!

We want to feature other schools and communities statewide and even nationally like Ebenezer Avenue Elementary. Tell [us](#) about your great Safe Routes to School successes.

Spotlight on a Friend: Eat Smart Move More Charleston Tri-County

Eat Smart Move More Charleston Tri-County, (ESMM CTC), is offering a free leadership training to those interested in

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

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 very popular 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 Outreach Coordinator** for assistance.

becoming a Community Walking Group Leader. A Community Walking Group Leader is a volunteer within the community that serves as an empowering, encouraging, supportive, and a positive role model and facilitator that commits to leading a community walking group. Incentives and educational materials will be available upon completion of this training.

Please visit the website below and click on the Resources tab to review the Community Walking Group Leader Training Manual titled "Walker Leader Manual-ESMM Charleston Tri-county":

<http://eatsmartmovemoreesc.org/charleston-tri-county/>

If you would like to nominate a community organization for our "Outstanding Friend" designation, please complete our [online nomination form](#). We're accepting nominations on a rolling basis and will announce the next round of "Outstanding Community Friends" in June 2014!

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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