



SOUTH CAROLINA

Resource Center Newsletter



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In this issue

Resource Center News: Thanks for Another Successful Year!
Highlight on Partner: Bike to School Day Event Highlights
Spotlight on a Friend: Healthy Palmetto Office of Community Health
Like us on Facebook!
From our State Coordinator
Upcoming Events: International Railroad Crossing Day
Grant Reminder: Fuel Up to Play 60
Learning Opportunity: Webinar Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers
Not a Silver Level Partner Yet?

Resource Center News: Thanks for Another Successful Year!

The South Carolina Safe Routes to School Program would like to thank all of our School Partners and Community Friends for another great year of walking and rolling! Since 2011, participation in Safe Routes activities has continued to increase. More schools than ever are encouraging students to be physically active and practice safe pedestrian/bicycle skills across South Carolina.

Take a look at our progress! See how Walk and Bike to School Day events have grown over the past few years:

- October 2011 International Walk to



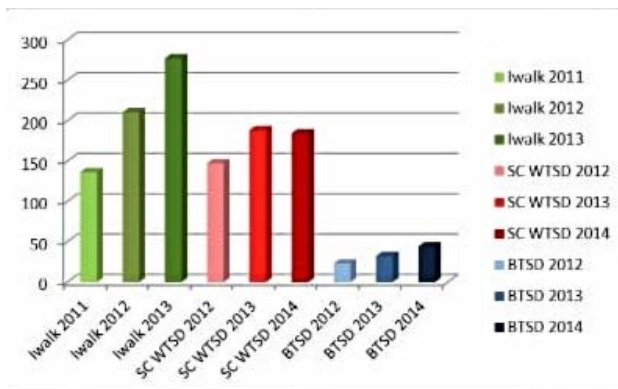
Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

**From our State
Coordinator:**

Thank you all for another successful school year! Safe Routes to School continues to grow throughout South Carolina. I couldn't be more proud of the progress, successes, and efforts we're seeing amongst our school and community partners! Here are some highlights from the 2013-2014 school year:

- 54 new [School Partners](#) enrolled in the SRTS partnership program
- 14 new [community Friend Partners](#) signed up to

- School Day- **136** schools participated
- October 2012 International Walk to School Day- **206** schools participated
- October 2013 International Walk to School Day- **277** schools participated
- March 2012 SC Walk to School Day- **147** schools participated
- March 2013 SC Walk to School Day- **187** schools participated
- March 2014 SC Walk to School Day- **184** schools participated
- May 2012 National Bike to School Day- **23** schools participated
- May 2013 National Bike to School Day- **32** schools participated
- May 2014 National Bike to School Day- **44** **registered events so far! Register by May 31st.**



2011-2014 Walk and Bike to School Day Events

Thank you for organizing such great activities for your schools! The Resource Center is looking forward to supporting next year's events during the 2014-2015 school year! **Mark your calendars to take part in International Walk to School Day on October 8th, 2014!**

Highlight on a Partner: Bike to School Day Event Highlights

A.C. Moore Elementary, in Columbia, celebrated National Bike to School Day on May

support the Resource Center

- Three schools created [SRTS Action Plans](#)
- More than 45 schools have progressed to either [Silver Level](#) or [Gold Level](#) partners
- We launched our nomination form for [Outstanding Community Friends](#)
- We created new resources such as the [Pedestrian Safety Tip Sheet for Adapting Lessons for Middle School Students](#) and the [Safety Scavenger Hunt](#) activity

Let's keep up our great momentum over the summer! As the school year winds down, and you find a little more free time during the school-day, consider taking that opportunity to promote one more event - and use our customizable [Summer Walk flyer](#) to help promote it! The end of the year is also a great time to talk with your students about summer safety topics and suggest ways for them to continue being physically active while they're out of school.

Upcoming Events: International Railroad Crossing Day- June 3rd

Educators and parents, please note that International Railroad Crossing Day is June 3rd. Teach children important railroad safety

7th during their PASS standardized testing! All students and faculty members were encouraged to Bike to School to help fill up the school's bike rack. Prior to Bike to School Day, their School Resource Officer talked to all students about the importance of Bike Safety, including proper helmet fitting, wearing the appropriate clothes, and using hand signals.

Pine Street School, in Spartanburg, doubled-up on their events in honor of Bike Month! On Monday, May 12th they held a bike rodeo from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Nearly 60 students attended, and school champions planned it to involve students attending their onsite after-school-care program. Then, on Wednesday, May 14th the school held a Bike to School Day and encouraged families to meet at a nearby Ingles grocery store and ride to school together along the Mary Black Rail Trail. The school estimates that 225 students, teachers and parents biked to school on May 14th!

Drayton Hall Elementary, in Charleston, celebrated Bike to School Day on May 5th. More than 250 students and parents biked to school using the bike trails that lead directly to campus. Vice Principal, Katherine Anderson, noted that physical exercise improves test scores, making this event a perfect way to kick off a week of PASS testing!

Pepperhill Elementary, in North Charleston, held a Bike Rodeo on Thursday, May 15th for all students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Each class visited the rodeo and learned important biking skills, including bike control, hand signals, and using the breaks properly. The students were also given a tutorial on how to wear a helmet and fit a bike. With the help of the North Charleston Bike Team, the Bike Rodeo was a big success!

tips since there are many railroads close to our homes and schools. Trains today are quieter than ever; that means a train can be much closer than we realize, before we hear it coming. Also, did you know that railroad tracks are private property? Teaching children that it is against the law to walk on train tracks at any time can be a critical safety precaution. Trains always have the right of way, so make certain to always cross at the appropriate crossing when passing over tracks. For more information on International Railroad Crossing Day check out these websites: <http://www.ilcad.org/History.html> <http://oli.org/education-resources/saftey-tips/safety-tips-and-facts/>

Grant Reminders: Fuel Up to Play 60

Applications to fund your school's Fuel Up to Play 60 program are due on **June 4th**! Schools may receive up to \$4,000 to fund plans promoting Healthy Eating and Active Lifestyles. Fuel Up to Play 60 is a program sponsored by the National Dairy Council and the NFL. The Fuel Up to Play 60 grant application can be found [here](#). Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance.

Learning Opportunity: Webinar Recruiting and Retaining

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Click here to see [photos of South Carolina's Bike Month Events!](#)

Spotlight on a Friend: Healthy Palmetto Office of Community Health

[Healthy Palmetto](#) has worked closely with our schools in the Midlands to provide support and assistance planning their Safe Routes to School events. Their health educators provide presentations to the community on the importance of physical activity and proper nutrition. With the summer soon in full swing, Healthy Palmetto developed a self-paced walking program called *I Pledge. I Pledge* encourages participants to take 2,000 or more steps and eat 100 fewer calories each day for six weeks. Click [here](#) to learn more and to enroll in this free program!

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!

Volunteers June 19

Get ready for your Safe Routes to School events next school year by taking part in the Safe Routes to School National Partnership's webinar to learn new strategies from an expert panel. This webinar will discuss how to manage and retain your volunteers in Safe Routes to School events. Click [here](#) to register today!

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.



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

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