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# SOUTH CAROLINA

## Resource Center Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 7, July 2014

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### Resource Center News: Crossing Guard Appreciation Week

SC Safe Routes to School will be celebrating Crossing Guard Appreciation Week November 17-21, 2014. Crossing Guard Appreciation Week provides a great opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of individuals who brave weather and busy streets to ensure South Carolina's children have a safer journey to and from school. Contact your [SOC](#) today to start planning an event in their honor!

**Partner Highlight: South Carolina #1 in the Country for IWalk 2013!**



**Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT**

**From our State Coordinator:**

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! As the new 2014-2015 school year approaches, I want to encourage all schools to take a look at their SRTS efforts and schedule a meeting with your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) (SOC) to plan events and discuss implementing SRTS program elements.

Congratulations to South Carolina for having the highest registration rate in the United States for schools participating in International Walk to School Day last October 2013! SC ranked #1 in the nation with one in four elementary and middle schools participating in the event. Congratulations to all of our school partners and community friends who organized and participated in these events!

Please [register](#) your school's event for International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. [Click here](#) to see a list of the 31 schools in SC that have already registered to participate in this year's International Walk to School Day. Congratulations to these schools for registering early!

Let's keep South Carolina at #1 for three years in a row!

## Spotlight on a Friend: New Outstanding Friends

This summer, the Resource Center is recognizing three new [Outstanding Community Friends](#).

- [The Children's Museum](#) (TCM) of the Upstate has an onsite Trike Track. Staff members use the spring, summer and fall months to promote bicycle safety and encourage families to walk and bicycle in their communities. TCM also works with nearby schools to plan walking field trips to visit the museum. Most recently, TCM partnered with the Resource Center to host a "Walk Shop" for its middle school [YES! program, a leadership and learning program for middle school students](#). Students received training on common pedestrian engineering treatments and then conducted a mock Walkability Assessment around the museum grounds. Students were encouraged to take

- For schools interested in enrolling in the SRTS Partnership Program, make sure you complete the [Enrollment Form](#) as soon as possible and register for International Walk to School Day to secure your incentives and resources.
- For schools that are already enrolled in our Partnership Program, continue progressing up our Partnership Levels!
  - Plan your [International Walk to School Day](#) event
  - Send home the [Parent Surveys](#) and administer the [Student Travel Surveys](#)
  - Ask your [SOC](#) to give a SRTS Presentation at your SIC, PTO/PTA or faculty meeting to help build SRTS support throughout your school

I am looking forward to an increase in SRTS participation across South Carolina and can't wait to hear your schools' great success stories!

this information back to their individual middle schools.

- [The North Charleston Police Bike Team](#) is a key partner in the Lowcountry. Together, with MUSC Safe Kids, Safe Routes to School, and the North Charleston Bike Team have all partnered for Bike Rodeos, safety events, and health and wellness days throughout the area. When the team comes out to a Bike Rodeo, they work with the children on fitting helmets, bicycle preparation, and biking skills. Each officer is instrumental in instructing Bike Rodeo participants in how to be as safe as possible. Often, the officers field questions from students on "catching bad guys" on their bikes. They work hard to protect and serve the community and to educate.
- [Safe Kids Sumter County](#) hosts events to provide safety education on an array of topics to families of Sumter County. Kids Fest is an annual event hosted by Safe Kids Sumter County which brings in over 1500 students. All elementary schools private or public are invited to participate in this free event. Students walk through fifteen interactive safety stations including "Safety Town", helmet safety, stranger danger, and fire safety. In the past the resource center was invited to lead "Safety Town" which demonstrates the importance of pedestrian safety. Students leave with educational handouts on each of the stations to share with their families. Safe Kids Sumter County also focuses their time on conducting bicycle rodeos throughout the county. Eggs are used to demonstrate the importance of helmet safety.

**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!**

## Upcoming Events: International Walk to School Day Registration is now OPEN!

[Register NOW](#)\* to participate in International Walk to School Day (IWalk) on **October 8<sup>th</sup>**! There are many ways for your school to participate. Plan your events to encourage students to:

- **Walk TO School** from their home
- **Walk TO School from a meeting location** (such as a park, grocery store or church parking lot)
- **Walk AT School** (school-wide walk around the campus in the morning, designated class time for grade-level walks throughout the day or a group walk after lunch)
- **Walk FROM School** (to their homes, a designated pick-up location or to an after school care provider)

Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with planning an event to fit your school's needs!

\*Incentives will be provided to [partner schools](#) with registered events on a "first-come, first-served" basis. To receive incentives before your

## Resource Opportunity: Walking Works

BlueChoice® HealthPlan of South Carolina is excited to invite schools across the state to participate in Walking Works for South Carolina Schools. This free walking program is aimed at boosting physical fitness and reducing childhood obesity. BlueChoice provides pedometers and a chart to track progress as well as educational materials about healthy food choices, and teachers commit to having students walk for at least five minutes per day. The program is designed for students in kindergarten through fifth grade and lasts for 12 weeks.

If your school is interested in participating, please contact Tawanda Grant at [tawanda.grant@bcbssc.com](mailto:tawanda.grant@bcbssc.com) or 803-382-5068.

## Recognition Opportunity: Let's Move Active Schools

[Let's Move! Active Schools](#) is a six-step process to assess the quality of physical activity opportunities before, during, and after school for your staff and students. Becoming a Let's Move! Active School allows your school the opportunity to:

- Prioritize physical activity and physical education changes at your school
- Access funding opportunities and professional development and training opportunities
- Receive national recognition for physical activity and physical education improvements

[Click here](#) to get started now!

Like us on 

Keep up with the Resource Center this school year

event, please register before **September 29<sup>th</sup>**. The Resource Center will have a limited supply, and based on the number of past events, may run out. Register Early!

## 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.

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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