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## Resource Center News: SC Walk to School Day Registration

**South Carolina Walk to School Day registration is now open!** The official event is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>**, and schools will be celebrating throughout March. There are many ways to participate. Schools can plan various walk-and-roll *to* school, park and walk, walk *at* school or walk-and-roll *from* school events. No matter the activity, the goal is to emphasize how walking and biking are healthy and fun activities. [Click here to register now.](#) **Incentive items for the events will be distributed on a first-registered, first-served basis and quantities are limited.** Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) with any questions or to receive assistance with planning your school's SC Walk to School Day!

### Partner Highlight: Gold Partners and Travel Plans

South Carolina Safe Routes to School Resource Center has [363 school partners](#). At the start of 2015, 234 schools are Bronze-level



**Rodney Oldham, CHES,  
CPT**

**From our State  
Coordinator:**

[South Carolina Walk to School Day \(SC WTSD\)](#) is just two months away! Last year we had more than 180 schools participate. Help us surpass this record by [registering your event now!](#)

Consider organizing a **Walking School Bus** for

partners, 114 schools are Silver-level, and 15 schools have reached Gold-level status!

Gold-level partners have completed Silver-level tasks and also surveyed parents about their attitudes towards SRTS, implemented an on-going weekly SRTS event like "Walking Wednesdays," provided bicycle or pedestrian safety education in the classroom or at an event such as a Bicycle Rodeo, conducted a walk audit, and created a [Travel Plan](#).

In fact, **we're currently looking for schools interested in drafting a SRTS Travel Plan using the [new Travel Plan Tip Sheets and Worksheets](#)**. Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) if you're interested in utilizing these worksheets this spring to draft your school's Travel Plan and move one step closer to becoming a Gold Partner!

## Spotlight on a Friend: New Outstanding Community Friends

**GET FIT** is a program sponsored by [Emerald City Bikes](#) in Greenwood, SC. GET FIT has helped enroll schools in the SRTS program, planned Walk to School Day events and Bike Rodeos, and sponsored an essay contest at elementary schools about the benefits of bike riding and donated a bicycle to the winner! Mr. Eubanks regularly donates bicycles to students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to own a bicycle. He also, makes a point to spend time with the students when he visits each school. As a Friend of the Resource Center, GET FIT has also assisted with SRTS Safety Assessments and grants.

[Safe Kids York County](#) has partnered with the Resource Center on many initiatives. Most recently, efforts have focused on training Safety Patrols in York County about pedestrian, bicycle, and car rider safety. To date, Safe Kids York County has trained six Safety Patrol groups. Additionally, Safe Kids York County assists with other safety education initiatives such as assemblies and bike rodeos!

[Trek Bicycle Store](#) of Mount Pleasant has supported SRTS, and Safe Kids Trident Area, at the Moultrie Middle School and Jennie Moore Elementary bike rodeos. Trek employee Chris Clark educated students about bicycle maintenance and preparedness for safe riding. The demonstration was an incredibly valuable part of the bike rodeo, and the students not only enjoyed, but learned a lot,

SC WTSD and use this event to launch an ongoing Walking School Bus Program. Walking School Buses build momentum and enhance pedestrian safety by bringing groups of children together to walk with adult chaperones. [Contact your School Outreach Coordinator](#) to [schedule a Walking School Bus Information Session](#) and learn more about how to prepare, build interest and launch a walking school bus program!

Lessons learned from International Walk to School Day's (iWalk's) Post Survey can help your school plan for SC WTSD. Ninety-nine school contacts responded to our survey and provided valuable feedback about their events and the SRTS program offerings. Here are some tips from that survey:

- Register early.
- Start early, and collaborate with community organizations for your event. Recruit guest speakers, fun mascots, music, and other

from the presentation.

SRTS is very fortunate to have such great Friends!

**Do you know of an organization that deserves some hard-earned recognition for its efforts regarding SRTS-related initiatives? If so, please [complete this nomination form today!](#) We'll select our next round of Outstanding Community Friends in summer 2015.**

## Grant Opportunity: Finish Line - Youth Foundation

If you work for an organization that provides opportunities for youth participation in camps or youth athletic programs apply for the Finish Line Youth Foundation Grant at <http://www.finishline.com/store/youthfoundation/guidelines.jsp>. Due to the overwhelming response to this opportunity, this link will take you to an Eligibility Quiz. Those organizations that fit within the goals of the grant will then be asked to submit a proposal. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Follow the link to find out if your organization qualifies for this grant money!

## Learning Opportunity: SC Safe Routes to School Forum June 18, 2015!

Mark your calendars! The SRTS Resource Center will be holding the Statewide Safe Routes to School Forum on June 18, 2015 at Spring Valley High School in Columbia. Participants will spend the day learning how to support and improve their SRTS program. The day-long event will include topics such as pedestrian and bicycle safety training, funding resources, and starting new or improving one's SRTS programs. This is an excellent opportunity to share ideas with and learn from school champions, school district administrators, SCDOT officials, bicycle and pedestrian and Safe Routes experts, and public safety personnel. Join us, to learn and network with other schools and groups that are all committed to creating safe, healthy environments for students!

## Award Opportunity: President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition

The President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition (PCFSN) is

resources.

- Start recruiting volunteers to walk with the students. Reach out to parents as soon as possible to secure their presence.
- Plan a safety assembly or kick-off pep rally to coincide with SC WTSD.
- Establish a remote location where a 'Park and Walk' event can be held. Car riders can participate by being dropped off at a safe parking lot then walking for the last leg of the trip to school.
- Consider having coffee or hot cocoa or other snacks for parents and students who walk/bike to school.
- Contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with your event and for more information about the iWalk Post Event Survey Results.

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currently seeking nominations for individuals who provide, enhance, or greatly contribute to the advancement of physical activity, sports, or nutrition. PCFSN is looking for 50 individuals who engage in these activities within a community to award the Community Leadership Award, and five individuals who have made a career out of their passion for physical activity, fitness, sports, or nutrition for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

[Nominations are due February 1<sup>st</sup>. Click here to learn more!](#)

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"**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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