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# SOUTH CAROLINA

## Resource Center Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 4, April 2015

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## Resource Center News: SRTS Forum Preview



Save the Date! Register NOW! The SRTS Resource Center is planning a Statewide Safe Routes to School Forum on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at Spring Valley High School in Columbia. There will be 12 breakout sessions to choose from addressing all aspects of Safe Routes to School including education strategies, encouragement programs, engineering treatments, and opportunities to get your community involved. The Forum will also feature plenary sessions and networking



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State Coordinator:

**Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 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 opportunity to help improve the environment: **by walking and biking to school!** We encourage you to

opportunities. [Click here to register!](#)

We will be highlighting various sessions planned for the Forum in each of our spring newsletters. In this edition, we are pleased to preview the session on hosting Bicycle Safety events. During the Forum, join guest speakers from Safe Kids, Greenville Health System, and the Aiken Public Safety Department for a discussion on how they have partnered with schools to bring bicycle safety education to students.

**Penny Bostain** is the Special Project Coordinator of School Health within Children's Advocacy of the Greenville Health System. Penny is a retired public school educator and consultant. She has worked alongside Safe Routes to School to support safe walking and biking to school through events and travel assessments for several schools in Greenville. Penny developed a bicycle skills and safety education curriculum targeting 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for in-school and out-of-school programs, created an adult instructor training module, and oversaw the development of three bike trailers containing bicycles and other equipment to teach the curriculum.

**Lt. Karl Odenthal**, is the supervisor in the Community Service Division for Aiken Public Safety. Lt. Odenthal has worked in law enforcement and with Aiken Public Safety for just under 25 years. Since 1994, he has been involved with bicycle education for law enforcement officers and cyclists of all ages. Lt. Odenthal developed Bikes and Books at Aiken Public Safety two years ago. Bikes and Books launched at North Aiken Elementary, where officers meet with students once a week to develop their reading levels and bicycle skills. In addition, Lt. Odenthal is a key contributor to the annual Aiken Bicycle Rodeo by developing the bicycle skills course, conducting bicycle repairs, and refurbishing bicycles to be raffled off.

**Jenny Winkelmann**, MS, LPC-I, is the Trauma/Injury

incorporate walking and biking activities into your Earth Day celebration - get creative and put your own spin on it! Here are some ideas:

- 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.

## Grant Opportunity: Good Sports

Good Sports is a non-profit organization that provides youth sport programs with equipment, apparel, and

prevention coordinator for MUSC Children's Hospital and the Safe Kids Coordinator for the Trident Area. In her role, she focuses on prevention of unintentional injuries to children in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties. Jennifer has been a great partner to SC SRTS using her vast knowledge of pedestrian and bicycle safety skills to teach students how to get to school safely.

[Click here to register for the SC SRTS Forum now!](#)

## Upcoming Event: National Bike to School Day

**National Bike to School Day** is set for **Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**! To register your school's event and find out who's riding, click [here](#).

To get ready for National Bike to School Day, review some **Bicycle Safety Tips** with your [students](#) and send home suggestions for [parents](#), too. Is it too far or unsafe for bicycle riding to school? Contact your 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!

The National Center for Safe Routes to School and Schwinn's **Helmets on Heads** program will be giving away 10 Schwinn Bicycles and 20 Schwinn helmets to 10 schools across the nation. Two drawings each week will take place starting on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) to learn more information about the giveaway and to register your event!

## Highlight on a Partner: SC Walk to School Success Stories

footwear. Consider applying for this grant to further your bicycle efforts. Perhaps start an after school biking club and apply for these funds to purchase helmets for your participating students! To learn more about this grant, click [here](#).

## Spotlight on a Friend: National Bike Month Community Events

**Midlands:** Columbia's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the American Diabetes Association have teamed up with the SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center to offer an interactive skills clinic on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Robert Mills House from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There will be stations to get bikes checked, helmet fittings, as well as stations for riders to work on their bicycling skills. Starting at 11:30 a.m., join the Mayor of Columbia for a [bicycle ride](#) around historic Columbia. Register [here](#) for the event! Riders may also choose to participate in the optional fund-raising opportunity for the American Diabetes Association. Prizes and awards will be available to those that participate.

**Lowcountry:** On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Daniel Island Rotary Club

Children at 219 schools across South Carolina participated in SC Walk to School Day (WTSD) events this spring! [Click here](#) to browse our photo album of event photos and read below for just a few event highlights from around the state. Would you like your school event featured in future newsletters? Let us know by [emailing](#) us today!

**John P. Thomas Elementary**, in Columbia, encouraged all students and families to walk to school on the day of their SC Walk to School Day event. After morning announcements, all PreK through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students walked two laps around the school to participate. Later in the day, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students walked around the school, too, so that all students participated. In addition, classrooms were invited to participate in a traffic-sign poster contest. Posters were displayed as the students walked at school.

**Edmund A. Burns Elementary**, in North Charleston, had another successful SC Walk to School day. Having been a partner with SC SRTS since 2011, Burns Elementary has participated annually in Walk to School day, Bike to School day, and Crossing Guard appreciation events. On this SC Walk to School Day, Burns' students were featured walking to school on local news channels. According to Megan Lambert, one of the Assistant Principals at Burns, more than half of the student population participated!

**Oakland Elementary**, in Spartanburg School District 2, scheduled a "Book Character Parade" in honor of Read Across America Week and South Carolina Walk to School Day! Students were encouraged to dress up as their favorite book character, and the whole school walked around the bus loop to show off their costumes.

will be holding a Bike Rodeo for Daniel Island School students in the second through fourth grades. The event will focus on safe biking skills and will be held at Daniel Island Children's Park. Partners involved in making the day a success are Trident Area Safe Kids, the Charleston Police and Fire departments, and TREK bicycle shop.

**Upstate:** The Spartanburg Criterium is a closed-circuit, multi-lap cycling race in Spartanburg. This year's race takes place on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. The day's events include a Bike Rodeo from 4pm-6pm and a Kids' Bike Ride at 6:30pm. Click [here](#) for more details!

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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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