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SOUTH CAROLINA

Resource Center Newsletter



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Resource Center News: Walking in a Winter Wonderland

The days may be shorter, but winter is still a good time for walking and biking to school! Be sure to review these tips before walking to school, a park, or anywhere this winter:

- **Be safe and be seen.** Follow basic safety rules. Look both ways before you cross the street, cross at marked crosswalks, watch for traffic, and pay attention to cyclists. Assume drivers can't see you and proceed with caution, especially when days are short and weather conditions are unfavorable.
- **Wear bright or reflective clothing, and carry a flashlight to stay visible.** With fewer daylight hours and cloudy conditions, it is important to wear a high-visibility outer layer.
- **Share the way.** Be mindful of cyclists, runners, and other trail users. Walk on the right, and listen for bells and audible warnings.
- **Walk with friends** or in places where there are



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State Coordinator:

The Resource Center is closing out another successful year! We now have 398 SRTS school partners! Of these 398 partners, [twenty are Gold Partners and one is a Platinum Partner!](#)

What does it take to become a Gold or Platinum Partner? One of the requirements is that your school must develop a [SRTS Travel Plan](#). A Travel Plan is drafted through a process of determining where your

other walkers, especially in the early morning and evening hours.

- Suppress the cold-weather hibernation instinct by thinking "**brisk**" and "**invigorating**" for your walks. **Dress in layers to stay warm.** Don't forget your mittens or gloves and a hat. You can lose 35 percent of your body heat through your head! Watch for icy spots along routes.
- **Pay extra attention to your feet.** Wear warm socks with room for toe wiggling. Lace up walking shoes with plenty of traction for those occasional icy patches.

Upcoming Event: SC Walk to School Day

South Carolina Walk to School Day registration is open! The official event is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 9th**, but schools will be celebrating throughout the entire month of 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 your event today!

Please contact your **School Outreach Coordinator** with any questions or to receive assistance with planning your school's SC Walk to School Day!

Incentives will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Glow-in-the-dark bracelets are available (up to 500) for schools that submit Student Travel Tallies this school year. Stickers will be available for all other schools that register events.

Partner Highlight: Crossing Guard Appreciation Events

November 16-20, 2015, was the 2nd Annual SC Crossing Guard Appreciation Week! Schools and communities across the state used this event to thank their crossing guards for their dedication to student safety. See below for a sample list of events

school is currently in regards to walking and bicycling, setting a goal of where your school would like to be in the future, and coming up with a set of strategies that will help your school achieve their goals. This plan is an essential piece to achieving a sustainable program from year to year. Additionally, having a committee in place to adopt the plan and oversee the implementation process will be vital to the plan's overall success.

You can use the [Travel Plan Toolbox](#) to help your school with the Travel Plan development process, and watch this [webinar](#) for additional guidance to help get you started!

Spotlight on a Friend: New Outstanding Community Friend

[Richland County Government](#) has partnered with the Resource Center on many initiatives. Last year, [County Councilwoman Julie Ann Dixon](#), District Nine, and the members of Richland County Council proclaimed March 5, 2014, as South Carolina Walk to School Day in Richland County and encouraged Richland County residents to participate. In addition, Councilwoman Dixon supported the first SC SRTS Statewide Forum by hosting it at Spring Valley High School - which is located in her County

and click [here](#) to see event photos on our Facebook page!

Jesse Boyd Elementary, in Spartanburg, recognized their crossing guard, Ms. Emma Taylor, by presenting her with the Outstanding Crossing Guard certificate of appreciation during a school-wide awards assembly! The Spartanburg Police Chief was even in attendance to show his support for Ms. Taylor's efforts in keeping Jesse Boyd students safe!

South Kilbourne Elementary, in Columbia, appreciates their Crossing Guard, Mrs. Shirley Nelson. Mrs. Nelson watches over all the walkers at South Kilbourne Elementary and assists their safe arrival to school. Mrs. Nelson is not only praised for her dedication to the students at South Kilbourne Elementary, but her abundance of love for her community. She volunteers at a local church making meals for the homeless and with fundraising efforts for a local high school. On Friday, November 20th, she was recognized by the entire school for being one of our Outstanding Crossing Guards in South Carolina.

Red Cedar Elementary, in Bluffton, loves their Crossing Guard, Laura Lewis! She is always out at her post on time (early, in fact), with a smile on her face, and says "good morning" to all students. She is perfect for Red Cedar! On November 19th, the Resource Center's Lowcountry School Outreach Coordinator, along with Principal Corley, staff, and administration, presented Ms. Lewis with a certificate of appreciation in front of a group of her adoring students.

Do you have questions about school crossing guards? Contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for more information.

Learning Opportunity: 2nd Annual SC Safe Routes to School Forum June 9, 2016!

Mark your calendars! The SRTS Resource Center will be holding a statewide forum, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2016. Participants will spend the day learning how to support and improve their

Council district. Councilwoman Dixon has also supported the Resource Center by participating in Walk to School Day events and Safety Walk Assessments! SRTS is very fortunate to have such great partnership with local government!

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.

Grant Opportunity: Powder Grants by Hot Planet/Cool Athletes

Do you have a Walk to School program at your school? If so, you are not only creating healthy student lifestyles, but you are helping the environment. Does your school care for the planet in other ways, too? You may be eligible for a Powder Grant through Hot Planet/Cool Athletes. With the help from their partners at The North Face, this grant helps students take action against climate change. The deadline to submit for this grant is January 15, 2016. Please click [here](#) to learn more about this exciting grant opportunity.

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SRTS program. The day-long event will include topics such as pedestrian and bicycle safety training, funding resources, and starting new or improving mature SRTS programs. This will be 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. Come and network with other schools and groups that are all committed to creating safe, healthy environments for students!

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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