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# SOUTH CAROLINA

## Resource Center Newsletter



Volume 7, Issue 5, May 2017

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## Resource Center News: SC Mayor's Bike & Walk Summit Safety Scavenger Hunt

The South Carolina Safe Routes to School Resource Center collaborated with the City of Columbia, Palmetto Cycling Coalition, and others to present the SC Mayor's Bike & Walk Summit in Columbia May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Resource Center team held a Safety Assessment Scavenge Hunt session at the Summit on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Attendees of the Summit had the opportunity to get moving and assess the walkability of Downtown Columbia near the Statehouse and enjoy the unseasonably cool weather. Using the tools which help the Resource Center, DHEC, SCDOT, and schools determine what changes can be made for safer walking and biking to school, the session participants took to the streets of Columbia looking for examples of best and worst practices. After the hunt, the group compared photographs. All agreed



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

### From our State Coordinator:

With the school year winding down, we know that some schools are already planning next year's calendar. Below are some dates to pencil-in!

**October 4, 2017** - [International Walk to School Day](#)

**November 13-17, 2017** - [Crossing Guard Appreciation Week](#)

that they were surprised by what they had found even though many walk the same streets daily.



## Upcoming Event: International Level Crossing Awareness Day

**International Level Crossing Awareness Day is June 2<sup>nd</sup>!** Before summer vacation, educate your students and their families on how to be safe around railroad crossings and railroad tracks when they are traveling on foot, on bike, or by car. Always expect a train where there are tracks! Never try to beat the train!

Click [here to review](#) safety lesson plans, teacher

**March 7, 2018** - [South Carolina Walk to School Day](#)

**May 9, 2018** - [National Bike to School Day](#)

Please schedule meetings with your [SOC](#) this summer to begin planning your 2017-2018 school year events. Think of new ways to make these annual events exciting for your students. Provide healthy snacks, organize music or invite mascots to participate in your Walk to School Days! In the past, mascots from these groups and organizations have been happy to take part:

- Universities and Colleges including South Carolina State, Clemson University, and the University of South Carolina
- High school bands, mascots, and athletes
- Local sports teams
- Area non-profits and advocacy groups
- Local businesses that can reduce emissions around your school zones.

## Grant Opportunity: Learning & Leadership Grants

Are you a teacher who has been researching bicycle and/or pedestrian education

resources, and videos for children.

Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit dedicated to railroad education, may also have some volunteers willing to [educate your students](#)! Contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) to let us know about your railroad safety plans!

## Spotlight on a Friend: Safe Kids Upstate

Safe Kids Upstate assisted with Augusta Circle Elementary School's Bike to School Day event on May 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition to handing out bike licenses, coalition members shared resources on bike safety and proper helmet usage with students and their parents. Safe Kids Upstate regularly partners with the SC Safe Routes to School on school safety-related events throughout Greenville County. In April, Safe Kids Upstate worked with the Greenville Drive baseball team to host a safety patrol appreciation event at Fluor Field in Greenville. Over 200 students were fitted for bicycle helmets and received safety education on a variety of topics.

## Partner Highlight: Bike to School Day Events

**Upstate:** Pine Street Elementary in Spartanburg kicked off their Bike to School celebration by inviting four professional cyclists to speak about bike safety and their careers in cycling. The following week, students biked to school either from their homes or from a "Park and Bike" location about 1.5 miles from the school. Helmets were also raffled off for students that participated in various bike to school events throughout the school year.

**Midlands:** H.E. Corley teamed up with Safe Kids Midlands to host a series of events for their Bike/Walk to School Day. All students participated in a helmet fitting demonstration during their live morning announcements. Students who participated in Bike/Walk to School Day were presented with a

and the connection to your classroom? If so, check out the Learning & Leadership Grants that support National Education Association (NEA) members who are public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education.

Applications must be received by June 1, 2017. If you are interested, you may find more information [here](#).

prize from Safe Kids Midlands and entered into a raffle for a brand new bicycle and helmet!

**Lowcountry:** Murray LaSaine Elementary has found a way to incorporate Bike to School Day into their spring field day. They host a field day at school in the afternoon from about 12 PM until 2 PM. There are stations with games where the kids move with their teachers every 10 minutes. The school has active sport stations showcasing what they have done in PE classes throughout the year, and they invite community members to come participate at a station. When Biking to School is not the best option, a field day is a great way to include bicycle safety into school programming.

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!



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

