

SOUTH CAROLINA Resource Center Newsletter



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Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

National Spotlight on South Carolina Safe Routes to School

Congratulations to all of the schools in SC who participated in International Walk to School Day (Iwalk) during October! South Carolina ranked #5 in the country with 210 event registrations by the National Center for Safe Routes to School. We had 74 more events than we did last year which resulted in a 54% increase! South Carolina also ranked in the top 3 for states with the highest participation rates based on percentages of total schools. This is the highest participation we've seen in the state over the past nine years.

South Carolina was also highlighted in the Safe Routes to School National Partnership's November newsletter for Iwalk and an infrastructure project that was completed at Wren Elementary and Middle Schools in Anderson County. Some of the schools' infrastructure improvements consisted of sidewalks being constructed and widened, addition of ADA accessible ramps, and

From our State Coordinator

As the season is changing and the temperature is cooling, fall offers beautiful weather for outdoor activities. Use this time of year to encourage your students and their families to walk to school together and enjoy the autumn air!

Organize your walk to school days around a seasonal theme - for example, hold a "Scarecrow Stroll," "Turkey Trot," "Pilgrim Promenade," and more! Maybe even consider planning an evening walking event at another

crosswalk striping and pedestrian/crosswalk warning signs installed near the schools. The county also redesigned a road that is frequently used by the school campus from a two lane rural to a three lane urban road. The community, county, and SCDOT worked together to bring this project to fruition. [Read more here.](#)

Resource Center News: Come and see us at the SCAHPERD Conference

The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center will be attending the 2012 SC Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (SCAHPERD) annual conference on November 9-10, in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Join our information session on Saturday, November 10th at 11am in the Winchester Room to learn more about the [Child Pedestrian Safety Curriculum](#) developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This lecture will provide attendees with more information about the curriculum, including an overview of the lesson structure, and will offer strategies to implement the curriculum throughout the school year.

Don't forget to swing by the SC SRTS Resource Center exhibitor booth to learn more about our partner schools or to sign up to receive our newsletter. Conference attendees who stop by the booth to learn more about the SRTS Partnership Program can also **enter our raffle drawing to win a complete set of the NHTSA curriculum FREE!**

Upcoming Event: Walk for Diabetes Awareness in November

November is American Diabetes Month! The American Diabetes Association has created the [School Walk for Diabetes](#) program to promote healthy living, school spirit, and community involvement. Schools can participate in this educational event and help students learn about the importance of making healthy choices and preventing diabetes.

location - like a local farm or a corn maze - and advertise this to your community as a family-friendly event!

Looking for more ideas to keep up your SRTS program momentum? Register for this upcoming [webinar](#) to learn about the 2012 Oberstar Award recipient and how they partnered with their local historical society and a community theater.

Grant Opportunity: Champions for Healthy Kids Grant

Through the Champions for Healthy Kids program, the General Mills Foundation will award 50 grants of \$10,000 each, to organizations working to improve nutrition and physical fitness behaviors for youth (ages 2-18). Schools, afterschool programs, daycares, community-based organizations, and government agencies are eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting an application is December 3, 2012. For more information and to download a copy of the grant application, [click here.](#)

There are many great ways to get involved! Host an official [School Walk for Diabetes fundraiser](#) or organize a Walk to School or Walk at School Day to promote diabetes awareness at your school. The American Diabetes Association also offers educational lessons for grades K-12th that meet the National Health and Physical Education curriculum standards. These lessons teach students about diabetes, increasing physical activity, and making healthy food choices. You can find the lessons [here](#).

[Contact](#) your local SOC for assistance with planning a walking event for your school, or call 1.855.4SC.SRTS to be referred to the Resource Center Coordinator in your community.

Spotlight on a Partner: Sterling School

Congratulations, Sterling School in Greenville, SC! State Farm Awards \$39k for Safe Walking and Biking

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board has awarded nearly \$40,000 to community partners [Upstate Forever](#) and [LiveWell Greenville](#) to increase physical activity among Nicholtown residents and Sterling School students. The two organizations will work with school and community leaders on infrastructure projects, directional signs, and a campaign to increase walking and bicycling to school.

This project resulted from Sterling School's Safe Routes to School [Travel Plan](#), for which the Resource Center provided technical assistance to develop in 2011. The process helped bring community stakeholders together to identify infrastructure improvements needed to make walking and bicycling safer for students.

As part of the State Farm grant project, Sterling School's elementary school students will walk through the neighborhood, identifying active-living resources and safe and unsafe pedestrian infrastructure. They will then photograph those locations with new geo-tagging cameras. Middle school students will be trained to use advanced mapping technology and create interactive neighborhood maps using the photo inventory. Sterling

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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!

New Resource: How Safe Routes to School Helps the Environment

Many schools are interested in SRTS programming as part of their environmental initiatives. **Fountain Inn Elementary** in Greenville County was recognized for its Clean Air Patrol in the National Center for Safe Routes to School's new publication, [Methods for Estimating the Environmental Health Impacts of SRTS](#). Fountain Inn Elementary participates in South Carolina's statewide [Breathe Better \(B2\) program](#), which aims to minimize the number of idling cars and buses. The Clean Air Patrol students collected data on idling vehicles during pick up and drop off for one week, in the fall and spring during

School Principal, David Johnstone, said, "We are thrilled to involve our students in this service-learning project that will result in real enhancements to our surrounding community and expose them to new technology.



State Farm agent, Kevin Dunn, presented a check to the school during its International Walk to School Day celebration on October 5, 2012.

Spotlight on a Friend: City of Rock Hill Community Partners Work to Achieve Bicycle Friendly Community Recognition

Congratulations, Rock Hill!

The League of American Bicyclists named Rock Hill a Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Community in October. This award recognizes Rock Hill's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in education programs, infrastructure, pro-bicycling policies, and bicycling promotions.

Rock Hill's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, Eat Smart Move More York County, the Rock Hill Bike Club, and City of Rock Hill have worked together to achieve this designation.

the 2011-2012 school year. Comparing the numbers before and after encouraging parents to turn off their cars while they were waiting, the Clean Air Patrol students helped avoid 6,503 pounds of air pollutants and 333,660 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions. "We are excited to continue to educate our students and the community about ways to improve air quality. We are making an impact at our school and in the community of Fountain Inn," stated Principal Glenn Wile. The Clean Air Patrol is back in business again this year and has completed their fall data collection.

For other ideas on how your school can become more environmentally friendly, check out the new publication for tools and examples of other schools' case studies. You can also review the Environmentally Friendly Lessons and Activities on the [SC SRTS Education Resources page](#).



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