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SOUTH CAROLINA

Resource Center Newsletter



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Resource Center News: Vote for your Favorite Bicycle Poster

The Resource Center is excited to announce that voting is now open to determine the SC winner for the Saris 5th Grade Poster Contest! Congratulations to the three finalists!

All entries were reviewed by a selection panel of [Friends](#) of the Resource Center. Our Friends helped us narrow down the final 3 poster entries - one from each [SRTS Territory](#).

Lowcountry: [Jennie Moore Elementary, Mount Pleasant](#)

Midlands: [Whittaker Elementary, Orangeburg](#)

Upstate: [West View Elementary, Spartanburg](#)

Click [here](#) to cast your vote via Facebook by



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

[From our State Coordinator](#)

Earth Day is Monday, April 22nd and 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 reason for, and benefit of, walking and biking - **helping the environment.**

We encourage you to incorporate walking and biking activities into your

"Liking" the picture of your favorite poster!

You can also submit your vote via email at

PosterContest@SCsaferoutes.org

and include the name of the school you're voting for in the email subject line.

Help spread the word! **Voting closes on April 17th!**

The first place winner will receive a bicycle, helmet and light and will be entered in the National Contest with the opportunity to win a new bike rack for their school. We'll announce the SC Winner on Facebook on April 18th, so make sure to "[Like](#)" our page for updates!

Upcoming Events: National Bike to School Day and Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

During the month of May, keep up the momentum from SC Walk to School Day by participating in both of these great events!

Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is on **May 1**.

Crossing guards improve students' safety as they cross intersections on their way to and from school. Crossing Guard Appreciation Day provides a great opportunity to introduce yourself and say "thanks" for his or her efforts in keeping children in the community safer. Show your school crossing guard how much you appreciate them by customizing a [Thank You Card](#) (For other Thank You Card options click [here](#)). Allow the students to sign this card or design their own cards and present to the school crossing guard on May 1!

National Bike to School Day is set for **Wednesday, May 8!** To register your school's event and find out who else is riding click [here](#). Registered schools will be entered into weekly drawings for a bicycle rack!

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

Earth Day celebration - get creative and put your own spin on it!

- Plan another "Walk to School Day" that 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 zone
- 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: Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant

Applications to fund your school's Fuel Up to Play 60 program are due on **June 4, 2013**. Schools may receive up

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 program this month. Please contact your local [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with planning your National Bike to School Day activities!

Spotlight on a Partner: SC Walk to School Day Successes

188 schools across South Carolina held SC Walk to School Day events this spring! Below are highlights from each region:

Upstate:

Sterling School, Greenville- The middle school band members played music during the walk to school from a "Park and Walk" meeting location.

Legacy Charter Elementary School, Greenville- Students were escorted on a field trip along the Swamp Rabbit Trail during their PE class.

Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School, Rock Hill-

The 6th grade leadership students taught [pedestrian safety lessons](#) to the kindergarten and 1st grade students the day before their Walk to School.

Midlands:

North Springs Elementary, Columbia- South Carolina University's mascot, Cocky, escorted the students during the walk.

Center for Inquiry, Columbia- Students and parents were led by Ridge View High School ROTC and their school mascot from a park and walk location. The school is also going to start a morning fitness club for students!

Lowcountry:

Red Cedar Elementary, Bluffton- Over 400 students walked to school. One school bus was completely empty and another arrived at school with only two students on it!

to \$4,000 to fund plans promoting Healthy Eating and Active Living.

Ideas for physical activity improvements can be viewed [here](#), and you'll notice that many of these activities fall in line with the Safe Routes to School Partnership Program. Use Fuel Up to Play 60 funds to establish a frequent Walk to School program or an after-school running or walking club. These program elements will also help you achieve [Gold Level](#) status with the Safe Routes to School Resource Center. The Fuel Up to Play 60 grant application can be found [here](#). Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance.

Highlight on a Friend: National Bike Month Community Events

Columbia - Columbia's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has teamed up with SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center to offer an interactive skills clinic on **May 4th** at Finlay Park from 9 to 11 am. There will be stations to get your bike checked and helmet fit as well as for riders to work on their bicycling skills! Starting at 10 am, join the group for a bicycle ride along the Vista Greenway led

Mitchell Elementary, Charleston- Students and parents met at a local park and were escorted to school by the high school marching band!

Lambs Elementary, North Charleston- Students and parents were greeted at a park and walk location by the local fire and police departments. Students were also taught pedestrian safety lessons in PE the entire week.

Myrtle Beach Intermediate School, Myrtle Beach - Students and parents met at the local stadium for a healthy breakfast and walk to school. The school also polled students that walked that morning to determine how exercise impacted their performance on their state testing goals.

Not a Silver Level Partner Yet?

Due to the success of so many schools participating in Walk to School Day events in South Carolina each year, the Resource Center will only be able to provide unique incentives such as the glow in the dark silicone bracelets to **[Silver and Gold Level Partners](#) starting Fall 2013!** Bronze level schools will no longer receive these types of incentives, but they will receive other incentives for participating in Walk and Bike to School Day events.

Click **[here](#)** to see the requirements to become at least a Silver Level Partner! There is still plenty of time to achieve Silver status before International Walk to School Day on October 9, 2013. Please contact your **[School Outreach Coordinator](#)** for assistance.

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!

by officers of the City of Columbia Police Department. Register **[here](#)** for the event!

Spartanburg -The Spartanburg Regional Classic Downtown Criterium will be held on **May 3rd** and serves as Bike Town Spartanburg's kickoff to National Bike Month. This year the event will feature a "Kid's Corner" at Meeting Street Academy of Spartanburg! "Kid's Corner" activities will begin at 3:30pm and include a bike safety rodeo, organized by Safe Kids of Spartanburg, and Team Spartanburg's "Annual Kid's Bike and Big Wheel Race" - where children will get to ride on the race course! Click **[here](#)** for more information.

Walterboro - On **May 1**, the City of Walterboro is hosting the 11th annual Downtown Walterboro Criterium International Bicycle Race and block party that is part of USA Crits Speed Week. The event is free and includes a children's race! Click **[here](#)** for more information.

Hilton Head Island - On **May 25**, families are invited to the "Safety Town" where children will learn how to bike safely through a unique, child size town with stop lights, crosswalks, and signs. This event is sponsored by the HHI Rotary Club and will take place on the HHI School Campus. For more information on this event as well as many other community bicycling events in the area please download this **[flyer](#)** from the Town of HHI Bicycle Advisory Committee.



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

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