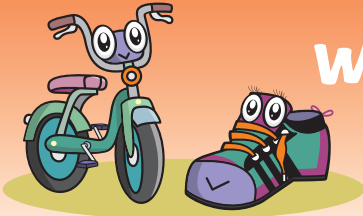


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Walking and Wheeling Newsletter

July 2009



www.arsaferoutes.org

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SRTS WORKSHOPS

The staff at the Injury Prevention Center at Arkansas Children's Hospital's will be conducting 16 SRTS technical workshops at each of the Arkansas Department of Education's local educational cooperatives. These will be hands-on events where participants will receive necessary SRTS information and resources, will learn lessons from other schools and create a SRTS action plan.

If you are a school administrator, school staff, city manager/planner, parent, PTA member, or any other community member interested in the SRTS program, please go to our website to see an updated schedule or call for more information.

*****NOW ACCEPTING*****

ARKANSAS SRTS GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has announced the third Arkansas Safe Routes to School Program application cycle. Applications for Start Up, Education and Infrastructure grants will be accepted through October 30, 2009. Applications are available for download at:

www.arkansashighways.com/programs.htm
&
www.arsaferoutes.org

The program is 100 percent federally-funded and is the last year of funding authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The purpose of the program is to enable and encourage students in Kindergarten through 8th grade to walk or bike to school. For other information or questions please contact the coordinator at 501-569-2020.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS INCORPORATE THE FIVE E'S

EDUCATION

TEACHING INDIVIDUALS ABOUT THE BROAD RANGE OF HEALTH AND TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS AS WELL AS SAFETY SKILLS

ENCOURAGEMENT

USING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE BICYCLING AND WALKING

ENGINEERING

CREATING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THAT REDUCE SPEEDS AND ESTABLISH SAFER AREAS

ENFORCEMENT

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ENSURE DRIVERS OBEY LAWS AND INITIATING COMMUNITY SAFETY ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGNS

EVALUATION

MONITORING AND RESEARCHING SAFETY AND UTILIZATION OUTCOMES AND TRENDS

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY

The Forest Park Elementary School PTA utilized strengths of its parent volunteers to partner with the City of Little Rock, the Little Rock School District, 3M Corporation, and the neighborhood surrounding the school to develop a comprehensive and successful Safe Routes to School program.

While most students could walk or bike to school, a majority of students are driven to school by their parents because of lack of sidewalks. In 2005, the PTA began talking with Bicycle Advocates of Central Arkansas and the Little Rock School District School Board about SRTS funding and the need for sidewalks around the school. By 2006, Martha Hill, former PTA President, credits the vast experience that parents had in many different fields with helping the project to move forward smoothly.

In 2007, the Forest Park Elementary PTA was awarded both an infrastructure and education grant from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. Sidewalk construction was completed during summer 2008. "We had kids walking to school that first day," Hill says. "It was incredible." The PTA celebrated the completion of the sidewalks on International Walk to School Day in October 2008. It launched its Stride Pride education component which includes a public awareness campaign, a walking school bus program, age-appropriate pedestrian safety messages, and Stride Pride Fridays to encourage students to walk to school regularly.

For their efforts, the Forest Park PTA won the Little Rock PTA Council Safety Award and the Arkansas PTA Council Safety Award. An added benefit of the project emerged when neighborhood residents surrounding the school banded together to raise private funds and negotiate with the city to improve a section of street that was not covered by the SRTS grant.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The National Safe Routes to School Conference will be held August 19-21 in Portland, Oregon. Attending from the Arkansas SRTS program will be Kim Sanders, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department Intermin SRTS Coordinator, Jennifer Shaw, Arkansas Children's Hospital Program Director, and Mechelle Winslow, ACH Program Coordinator.

For more information on the national conference please visit the website below.

www.saferoutesinfo.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

With the year three grant cycle beginning, we will be holding five Promotional School Rallies across the state. These will be exciting and fun-filled rallies to motivate children Kindergarten through eighth grade and encourage these communities to promote Safe Routes to School programs. Only communities applying for a year three grant are eligible to host these rallies. If you are interested, please go to the Safe Routes website and download a school rally application or contact Mechelle Winslow at the phone number or email below.

www.arsaferoutes.org

For more information on SRTS, please contact:

Mechelle Winslow
ACH Injury Prevention Center
1 Children's Way, Slot 512-26
Little Rock, AR 72202
501-364-4954
mtwinslow@uams.edu

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send an e-mail to mtwinslow@uams.edu or call 501-364-4954.