

Students Against
Violence Everywhere

SAVE

MAY

is



NATIONAL YOUTH TRAFFIC SAFETY MONTH

Produced in partnership by Students Against Violence Everywhere & The Allstate Foundation

May is National Youth Traffic Safety Month! The Allstate Foundation and the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) have partnered to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. This is an important time to focus on teen driving safety with events surrounding the end of the school year including prom and graduation.

SAVE is a peer to peer organization that strives to increase youth involvement in their own safety efforts. SAVE believes in the power of positive peer influences. The obstacles faced by today's students are daunting. More than previous generations, today's youth are faced with choices that have true life and death ramifications. Car crashes take a tremendous toll on the emotional and physical health and well-being of our nation's young people, parents, school officials, and law enforcement. One of the most valuable resources that schools and communities often overlook when addressing school and community youth safety is student involvement. By encouraging youth-led solutions, we can empower students to play a key role in fostering safe and smart decisions that will protect the health and lives of our nation's youth. The good news is, as the growing number of students involved in SAVE attests, students are willing to step up to the plate and actively participate in solving this complex problem.



- SAVE encourages positive peer influences within the school and community through prevention efforts.
- SAVE educates students about the effects and consequences of unsafe teen driving, as well as safety activities for students, parents, and the community.
- SAVE engages students in meaningful safety efforts within their school and community.
- SAVE empowers youth with knowledge and skills necessary to provide service to their community and school.



CREATING A DRIVE IT RIGHT PLEDGE

SAMPLE PLEDGE

Today, an average of 11 teens will die in a car wreck and hundreds more will get banged up and hurt. It will probably be because of some dumb little mistake that was totally preventable.

BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN TO MY FRIENDS.

Today, I make this pledge: Not one of my friends will get hurt or die in a car crash. Not when I'm behind the wheel and not when I'm a passenger in their car. I will drive for our freedom, for all the cool things we have planned, and for our futures. If I'm a passenger, I will defy peer pressure, I will speak up, and I will always have their back.

I, _____,
PLEDGE: NOT MY FRIENDS. NOT TODAY.
NOT TOMORROW. NOT EVER.

FRIENDS¹⁰

Take your circle of friendship to the tenth power. Get 10 friends to pledge with you.

I PLEDGE: NOT MY FRIENDS.
NOT TODAY. NOT TOMORROW. NOT EVER.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

1. Make sure you use the first person in your pledge— it should come directly from you!
2. Write the pledge as though you are speaking directly to friends, loved ones and yourself.
3. Describe what the phrase *drive it right* means to you and pledge to drive it right!
4. Mention some of the teen driving statistics that have had the most impact on you.
5. Describe how you intend to act when you're behind the wheel and when you're a passenger in another teen's car.
6. Highlight all the things you could lose if you were to die in a car crash. Add pictures of your friends, your own drawings, or pictures from magazines to show what's important to you.
7. Make sure to leave room for your own signature, and create a place where your friends can sign it too.
8. One last tip: be creative!

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL YOUTH TRAFFIC SAFETY MONTH A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *your state/city/region* recognizes youth traffic safety as a vital concern for the youth of *your state/city/region*; and

WHEREAS, *your state/city/region* recognizes our youth are an asset we can not afford to lose to needless crashes;

WHEREAS, each person including parents, educators, law enforcement, elected leaders, community leaders, and youth themselves must play a part in protecting our youth and educating them and their families about youth traffic safety;

WHEREAS, the month of May is an opportune time to increase awareness concerning youth traffic safety as the prom season, graduations, and summer vacation months area time of particular concern;

WHEREAS, with the resources of National Organizations for Youth Safety, the National Association of SAVE and its local chapter, *your organization*, we can help increase awareness about youth traffic safety in *your state/city/region*;

NOW, THEREFORE, I *name of governor, mayor, or elected official, title of name of your state/city/region*, do hereby proclaim May, *Name of your state/city/region* National Youth Safety Month, and I commit this observance to the people of *your state/city/region*.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

TEEN SAFE DRIVING ACTIVISM PROJECT IDEAS



Remembrance tree - create a tree with names of crash victims. The leaves serve as a reminder for the thousands of teenagers that fall victim to auto accidents each year.

Sidewalk Art - create safe driving messages with sidewalk art. Can be done as a contest or simply an easy way to remind students to be safe behind the wheel.

Chain of Life - Students' names are written on a paper chain, which is displayed prominently. Students are reminded to make good decisions and not break the chain.

Mock Crash - conduct a mock crash that shows students what can happen at the scene of an accident, invite local life flight, firefighters, EMS, highway patrol, police department, sheriff's department, coroner to help plan and conduct event. Through the combined efforts of these agencies and services, the mock crash demonstration will simulate the arrest, rescue, and medical transport of the injured students and the deaths of others.

Car Bash - hold a car bash as a fundraiser or just a way to help relieve stress.

Heart carnations - remind students to drive safely by placing a carnation on every windshield. Attach a note such as "Have a heart. Drive smart. We're looking Out for you."

Grim Reaper Day - An average of 11 teenagers die every day in America as a result of car crashes. Grim Reaper Day provides visual representation of this statistic.

Traffic signs - Install *Buckle Up* signs at parking lot exits and *Stop For Pedestrians* signs at school cross walks. Place *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk* signage in strategic areas.

Prom Activities - conduct awareness activities prior to prom and advocate for a safe after prom alternative.

Seat Belt Check - Conduct a safety belt check handing out Smarties to those wearing them and Dum-Dums to those that aren't.

SIMPLE TIPS TO STAY ALIVE

1. Avoid distractions. They're deadly. Talking on your cell phone while driving gives you the reaction time of a 70-year-old.¹ Texting a friend, eating a cheeseburger and listening to really loud music while driving all increase your chance of crashing.
2. Be defensive. Leave room between you and the cars around you. Ask yourself what would happen if the car in front of you slammed on their brakes, like right now?
3. Wear your seat belt. Research has shown that wearing lap/shoulder belts can reduce the risk of dying in a crash by 45%.² And wearing a seat belt is definitely more comfortable than a face full of stitches or being in a full-body cast for half the school year.
4. Remember that driving anytime can be dangerous. Half the teens that died in car crashes in 2005 were killed between 3 p.m. and midnight.³ Even driving home from school or to an after-school job can be deadly!
5. Slow down! The speed limit is the fastest you're supposed to go. You're not invincible. In a car crash, your body will bounce around. The car is stronger than you are. Speeding isn't worth it.
6. Speak up if your friend is driving like a maniac or wants you to! Don't let your silence be the last thing either of you hears!
7. Realize that a crash really can happen to you. Even if you think you're a good driver. So make good choices when you're behind the wheel. They may just save your life...or your friend's life.

¹ Cell Phones 'age' teen drivers to 70, Marion Baillot, The Washington Times, (3 February 2005), www.washtimes.com/national/20050203-125557-7992r.htm.

² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "Safety Belts and Older Teens—2005 Report."

³ Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Highway Loss Data Institute, "Fatality Facts 2005: Teenagers," www.iihs.org/research/fatality_facts/teenagers.html (2005).



WHAT'S IT WORTH?

Most fatal teen crashes are caused by driver error. Is being careless worth the risk? Have you thought of all the things you stand to lose by driving carelessly? Think about what you could lose. What would you add to this list?

- Your driver's license.
- Your money. Tickets are expensive and insurance prices often go up after a crash.
- Your parents' money. Lawyers are expensive and damaging someone's car or injuring someone is a really good way to get sued.
- Your car.
- Your parents' car.
- Your parents' trust.
- Your friends' trust.
- Your chance to participate in school activities.
- Your chance to go to college.
- Your chance to get a job.
- Your ability to walk.
- Your friend's ability to walk.
- A stranger's ability to walk.
- Your freedom. You can go to jail for killing someone.
- Your friend's life.
- Your sibling's life.
- An innocent stranger's life.
- Your life.

