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# SOUTH CAROLINA

## Resource Center Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 8, August 2016

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## Resource Center News: IWALK

[Register NOW\\*](#) to participate in International Walk to School Day (IWALK) on **October 5<sup>th</sup>**! For the previous four years, South Carolina has had the highest rate of school participation in the country. Let's make it another record-breaking year! Register your event and be part of the excitement!

There are many ways for your school to participate. Plan your events to encourage students to:

- **Walk to School** from their home
- **Walk to School from a meeting location**
- (such as a park, grocery store, or church parking lot)
- **Walk at School** (school-wide walk around the campus in the morning, designated class time for grade-level walks throughout the day, or a group walk after lunch)
- **Walk from School** (to their homes, a



**Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT**

### From our State Coordinator:

Kick-off the new school year with an event to acknowledge [Childhood Obesity Awareness Month](#) this September! Plan a school walking event to encourage physical activity or invite guest speakers to talk with your students about the importance of healthy lifestyles. Your PTA/PTO may even want to sponsor a health and safety fair for your families to receive health education.

designated pick-up location, or to an after school care provider)

Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with planning an event to fit the needs of your school.

\*Incentives will be provided to Partner Schools with registered events on a "first-come, first-served" basis. To receive incentives before your event, please register by September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Based on the number of past events, we may run out. Register early!

## Upcoming Event: Student Travel Tally Month

This **September** will be the Resource Center **Student Travel Tally Month**. The Student Travel Tally is a quick, in-class survey that provides valuable information on student travel patterns. Completing travel tallies will also help your school move up to a **Silver Level** Partner with the Resource Center! Collecting tallies on an annual basis is a great way to track the impact of your SRTS program.

Download the Student Travel Tally form [here](#) and provide one form to each homeroom teacher during the same week in September. Each teacher will ask their students on two days during that week how they traveled to and from school. Once the forms are completed, contact your local **School Outreach Coordinator (SOC)**, and we will help get your forms to the National Center for Safe Routes to School for processing. Your school will then receive a complete report of your student's travel patterns! You can find a useful [tip sheet here](#).

Another way to evaluate your Safe Routes to School program is to complete the SRTS **Parent Survey**. Put this survey in your back to school registration packets or hand it out at the first PTA meeting. The parent survey can also be completed online. Contact your local **SOC** for more information.

I encourage your school and community to look for opportunities to participate all month long. Here are two dates to mark on your calendar and to plan for:

- **[Worldwide Day of Play](#) is September 17<sup>th</sup>** and Nickelodeon, a television network for children, celebrates by going off the air for three hours in order to encourage kids to go outside and play. Celebrate by organizing a 5k run, walk-a-thon, or a bicycle rodeo at your school. Contact your [SOC](#) for more ideas on how to participate.
- **World Car Free Day is September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Celebrate with a Walk to School or Bike to School event. You can also [schedule your SOC](#) to give a Walking School Bus information presentation to your parents.

## Grant Opportunity: Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Curricula Grant

Have you found a way in your classroom to teach students about how walking to school changes their footprint on the

## Partner Highlight: Safety Assessments

Since the Resource Center's inception in 2011, we've helped conduct over 100 School Safety Assessments (known as Walk Audits). Safety Assessments bring together stakeholders to assess the barriers to and opportunities for safe routes at and around a school. Stakeholders observe arrival and/or dismissal, walk the existing and potential routes around the school, and discuss wants, needs, and immediate safety concerns.

Schools that have completed Safety Assessments have gone on to draft SRTS [Travel Plans](#), earn our Gold Partner designation, and even secure grant funding.

Contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) to learn more about Safety Assessments and to schedule yours today!

## Spotlight on a Friend: ThinkFirst

Start planning your guest speakers now for your SRTS events. Our dedicated partners at [ThinkFirst](#) can come to your school to host an engaging presentation on helmet safety! [ThinkFirst](#) is a nationally recognized injury prevention program. This research validated, multi-level educational presentation was created to teach young people in grade levels four through twelve about better decision making skills that would help them avoid life-altering traumatic brain injuries. This fun and interactive presentation includes fundamentals on the operation of the brain, various ways students are able to be more safety-conscious in real-life scenarios, and a short video and /or a VIP speaker. A VIP speaker is someone whose life has been changed by a traumatic brain injury. VIP speakers are usually the students' favorite part, as they can interact and ask questions. In addition, the presentation can be altered to fit the needs of the school interested!

earth or other innovative ways of teaching environmental curricula? If you have, the Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation Curricula Grants may be for you. The deadline for pre-proposals is August 12, 2016. For more information regarding how to win one of the \$1500 grants [click here](#).

## Upcoming Event: Walk to School Day Photo Contest

[International Walk to School Day](#) is less than two months away, and we want your pictures! The Resource Center will host a Photo Contest on our [Facebook](#) page this fall, and we will be looking for pictures that showcase the success and excitement of your Walk to School Day event! Pictures must be sent to your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) by **Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**. Get your cameras ready. Look for rules and prize information in next month's newsletter and online during September and October.

Like us on  
[facebook](#)

Contact your local [SOC](#) now for additional information and to schedule your presentation!

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*