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## SOUTH CAROLINA Resource Center Newsletter



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### Resource Center News: SC Walk to School Day Registration

**South Carolina Walk to School Day registration is now open!** The official event is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 5<sup>th</sup>**, and schools will be celebrating throughout March. There are many ways to participate. Schools can plan various walk and roll *to* school, park and walk, walk *at* school or walk and roll *from* school events. No matter the activity, the goal is to emphasize how walking and biking are healthy and fun activities. [Click here to register now.](#) **Incentive items for the events will be distributed on a first-registered, first-served basis.** Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) with any questions or to receive assistance with planning your school's SC Walk.

### Upcoming Events: Saris 5th Grade Poster Contest

The Resource Center is partnering with Saris Cycling Group (SCG), a manufacturer of bicycle racks and cycling training products, to provide a poster contest that encourages fifth graders to think



Rodney Oldham, CHES,  
CPT

From our State  
Coordinator

[South Carolina Walk to School Day \(SCWTSD\)](#) is just two months away! Last year we had more than 185 schools participate. Help us surpass this record by [registering your event now!](#)

Consider organizing a **Walking School Bus** for SCWTSD and use this event to launch an

about the benefits of bicycling. To enter, fifth grade students should create a poster with John F. Kennedy's famous quote in mind: **"Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of a bike ride."** The contest promotes youth riding bicycles as a way to lead a healthy lifestyle. One statewide winner will be selected to receive a **FREE bike, bike light, and helmet**. And there are prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, too!

Mail your school's best poster (only **one** per school will be accepted) to:

SC SRTS Resource Center  
Saris Poster Contest  
128 Millport Cir.  
Greenville, SC 29607

Entries must be postmarked by **March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**. Download the **[Contest Rules](#)** and make sure your school's entrant completes the **[Permission Slip](#)**. For more information, and to submit your school's poster, contact your **[School Outreach Coordinator](#)**.

## Partner Highlight: How to Get to Silver and Gold with the Resource Center

**[South Carolina Safe Routes to School Resource Center](#)** has **[308 school partners](#)**. At the start of 2014, 222 schools are Bronze-level partners, 82 schools are Silver-level, and four schools have reached Gold-level status!

Silver-level partners have completed the **[Student Travel Tallies](#)**, held at least two **[SRTS events](#)** per school year, and have had a **[SOC](#)** present at their school PTA or School Improvement Council meeting. Gold-level partners have completed Silver-level tasks and also **[surveyed parents](#)** about their attitudes towards SRTS, have an on-going weekly SRTS event like "Walking Wednesdays," conducted a walk audit or created a **[Travel Plan](#)**, and provided bicycle or pedestrian safety education in the classroom or at an event such as a **[Bicycle Rodeo](#)**.

Find out more about how a school can move up from Bronze to Silver and from Silver to Gold by contacting your **[School Outreach Coordinator](#)**. Click **[here](#)** to see your school's current Partner level.

## Learning Opportunity: US Play Coalition Conference

The **US Play Coalition**, a Resource Center **[Community Friend](#)**, is

ongoing Walking School Bus Program. Walking School Buses build momentum and enhance pedestrian safety by bringing groups of children together to walk with an adult chaperone. **[Contact your School Outreach Coordinator](#)** to **[schedule a Walking School Bus Information Session](#)** and learn more about how to prepare, build interest and launch a walking school bus program!

Lessons learned from International Walk to School Day's (iWalk's) Post Survey can help your school plan for SCWTSD. Ninety-nine school contacts responded to our survey and provided valuable feedback about their events and the SRTS program offerings. Here are some tips from that survey.

- **[Register early](#)**.
- Start early and collaborate with community organizations for your event. Recruit guest speakers, fun mascots, music, and other resources.
- Start recruiting volunteers to walk

hosting a 2014 conference from **February 16-19, 2014**, in Clemson.

The conference will address collaboration and creativity skills and how these skills are developed and encouraged through play. The 2014 conference will feature six tracks: Education, Programming, Park and Recreation, Health, Business/Corporate, and Children's Museums.

**The Resource Center will be presenting a session within the conference's Health Track** on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 1:45 PM. Our session is titled "Walking School Buses, Bicycle Rodeos and BOW WOWs (Bike on Wednesday and Walk on Wednesday events): Innovative Strategies to Encourage Children to Walk and Bicycle Safely". Click here to learn more about the [US Play Coalition 2014 Conference](#).

## Grant Opportunity: Finish Line - Youth Foundation

If you work for an organization that provides opportunities for youth participation in camps or youth athletic programs, apply for the Finish Line Youth Foundation Grant at <http://www.finishline.com/store/youthfoundation/guidelines.jsp>. Due to the overwhelming response to this opportunity, this link will take you to an Eligibility Quiz. Those organizations that fit within the goals of the grant will be then asked to submit a proposal. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Follow the link to find out if your organization qualifies for this grant money!

## Spotlight on a Friend: Safe Kids SC

[Safe Kids South Carolina](#) serves under [Children's Trust South Carolina](#) and is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide. South Carolina has the 13<sup>th</sup> highest rate of injury deaths in the United States. Since 1987, Safe Kids coalitions from across the country have contributed to a 51% reduction in the U.S. child fatality rate from unintentional injury. [Safe Kids Coalitions](#) work to educate adults and children, conduct research, and advocate for effective laws that keep children safe.

["On the Safe Side"](#) is Children's Trust annual safety education program for elementary-age children. Materials include safety tips, lesson plans, online quizzes, web resources and take-home posters. Posters feature student artwork and include tips for staying safe.

with the students. Reach out to parents as soon as possible to secure their presence.

- Plan a Safety Assembly or kick-off pep rallies to coincide with SCWTSD.
- Establish a remote location where a 'Park and Walk' event can be held.
- Consider having coffee or hot cocoa or other snacks for parents and students who walk/bike to school.
- Contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with your event and for more information about the IWalk Post Event Survey Results.

## 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 very popular glow

Entries are currently being collected for their [Safe Kids annual statewide student art contest](#). Deadline for submission is **Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**. Click [here](#) for guidelines and submission forms.

If you would like to nominate a community organization for our "Outstanding Friend" designation, please complete our [online nomination form](#). We're accepting nominations on a rolling basis and will announce the next round of "Outstanding Community Friends" in June 2014!

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!

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 South Carolina Walk to School Day on March 5th, 2014. Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance.



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

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