

CAMP FIRE USA TEENS IN ACTION PROJECT IGNITION NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER 2007



Thirteen Teens Killed in AUTO ACCIDENTS in the Metro Area in November 2007

The past month has been a very difficult one for our communities. During the past few weeks 13 teens have died due to auto accidents. Four students died in one school and two in another. In other accidents students were killed and many others were injured and hospitalized. This is an epidemic. Thirteen is too many young people to be killed. Police report that the cause of these accidents include driving without licences, too many kids in the car, not paying attention, using cell phones, speed, not wearing seatbelts,

The National Transportation Safety Board says that Driving Accidents are the number one Killer of teens in this country. If that is the case, why is more not being done to address the issue.

That is the question that Teens in Action Project Ignition is addressing through our Driving Safety Program. Our goal is to reduce the incidents of teen driving accidents and deaths in our community. So you say—What have we done. Well Actually a lot—

▶ We created Distractions—WHAT IF—a play that discusses the issues of Driving Safety and provides a message on what we can do to be more effective drivers. We will be recording it as a video in January with the help of a professional film company that has donated its services. This production is done in both English and Spanish. We are now tagging it with Sign Language translation.

▶ We hosted a school wide assembly with guests Mr. and Mrs. Mercer, parents of Erin Mercer who spoke on the death of their daughter and how it impacted them and Erin's friends.



▶ We hosted a childrens safety camp—where we taught children the importance of safety including first aid, walking safety, and self-reliance

▶ We hosted a Childrens Halloween Safety Project—Where we took children who were living in a dangerous community and hosted a non-scary party for them. The purpose was to take them on a School bus and teach them bus safety. We went on a trip to a Pizza Parlor, had pizza and then took them on a night trick or treat hike discussing the safety issues of being out at night.

▶ We presented our play Distractions to over 10,000 people at the Channel 4 NBC Health Fair, to emergency responders at the Teen CERT instructors training and to parents, and the community in a

number of forums. We discussed with many the importance of driving without distractions in a display that we created and staffed during our presentations.

▶ We have designed and implemented Bike rodeos, childrens information days, school service and education fairs on safety,

▶ We created information for teachers on Service Learning and have engaged them in efforts to use service learning as a component of their learning process. This has had an impact as our teachers and students are more engaged in meaningful projects that now have goals, objectives and outcomes. We have worked closely with our Service Coordinator to change our methods at school from just helping to really doing service learning. Along with our advisor we have put together a handbook that uses existing data to help the teachers plan their programs. Our newsletter was distributed in September and the Handbook in December.

▶ We have furthered our knowledge by becoming certified as Teen CERT Team Members in collaboration with our Office of Emergency Readiness

▶ WE have collaborated with our local Fire Service and conducted a Crash Reinactment that is being used as commercials and educational resource for our play and video.



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► We are updating and managing our website— Our goal is to prepare it to be more interactive as we approach the Driving Summit in April

► We have designed and collected data from teens using Survey Monkey online tools to gather data. This has enabled us to get information from teens on their attitudes toward driving. We used the Childrens Hospital and State Farm questions to help us compare our findings.

► We created and produced a puppet show on good decisions that we presented to children in a number of settings. This show is used in schools, public settings and other community venues. It is done in English and in Spanish.



► We have shared our projects and our information with Good Morning America, Channel One TV, Public Radio in our community, Yo Listen Up on CBS Radio(Dec 20, 2007), and a number of other public Venues.

This is what we received by email—"I have an interesting proposal for you to highlight their endeavors and get the word out. I would like to have some of the students to come on the HOME TEAM show with Rane and Flexx on WPGC 95.5 to have a special edition of YO LISTEN UP (This show is a youth driven call in show).This show would be done in the studio for about an hour with them taking calls from their peers. I would like to have four selected youth and an expert to assist. I would like to do the show on Thursday, December 20, 2007 @ 7:00 pm. "

► **We are in the process of planning and hosting a Regional Teen Driving Safety Summit.** We have spent hours on this project planning and coordinating our efforts. We have set our goals and objectives and are working with a planning committee that includes students, parents, teachers, and community leaders to make the day a significant event. We collectively wrote a grant for this and for teen emergency readiness and are working on getting sponsors for the event. It will be held on National Youth Service Day, April 26, 2007 in Forestville Maryland. So far we have commitments from State Farm Insurance, National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS), Department of Public and Community

Health at University of Maryland, National Transportation Safety Board, Prince Georges County Office of Emergency Readiness, the State Police and Local law enforcement Agencies. We have requests out to a minimum of 15 other agencies awaiting their response for support and program activities.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED IN TEEN DRIVING SAFETY PROJECT?

♥If you or your school is located in the Metro Washington DC Area, we would like to invite you to join us in our efforts to reduce the incident of accidents in our community. We need every teen and adult to take this issue seriously and to work with us to make a difference. IF you are interested in helping, you can contact us at Teenspatuxent@comcast.net, or via Mrs. Pezzuto at CampFirePatuxent@aol.com. The Camp Fire Phone number is 301-346-7860.

♥If you are a TEACHER—Take this topic seriously and find ways to talk to your teens about safe driving and other responsible behavior.

♥If you are a PARENT—TALK to your kids. Tell them what you expect. Complete a contract for safe driving with them. Research shows that Parents do make a difference.

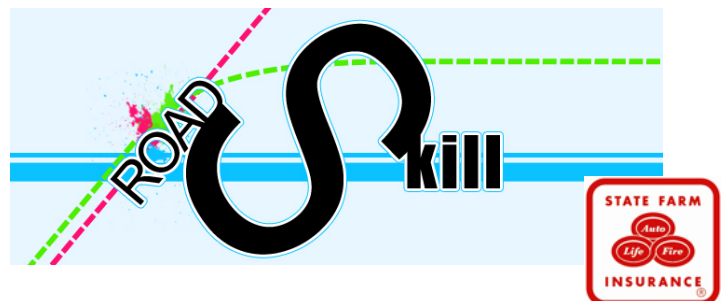
♥ATTEND our Driving summit on April 26 and be part of the solution.

♥Go to www.sfprojectignition.com and find out more about Project Ignition

♥Go to www.teenroadskill.org and find out about our project and other resources.

♥Be proactive—Do not be afraid to tell someone to act responsibly while driving or while a passenger.

Help up keep the Roads from Killing— Develop good Road Skills



A project of Teens in Action-Project Ignition---Under the supervision of Camp Fire USA
PO Box 763, Bowie MD 20718 CampFirePatuxent@aol.com www.campfireusa-patuxent.org