

Driving on the Right Side of the Road

Lessons for K-12

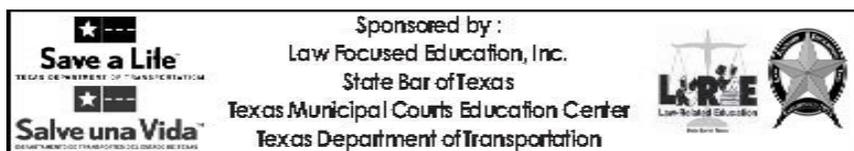
ABOUT DRIVING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-20 year olds. Younger children are often hurt if they do not wear their safety belt, do not obey traffic signals, or fail to wear protective equipment when bicycling or rollerblading. The purpose of the DRSR program is to offer a preventive educational program to encourage responsible decision-making when it comes to obeying traffic laws and to follow safe practices.

The DRSR program has created a series of lessons for social studies classes at the elementary and secondary levels on citizenship, education, and traffic safety. The program is aligned with the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills), which all students are tested on in Texas public schools.

The lessons use interactive strategies and online games to teach traffic safety while studying city, state, and national government, the three branches of government, and the responsibilities of citizenship. Elementary lessons also use traffic safety content to teach language arts and math skills.

Information sheets provide teachers with background information about traffic laws and municipal court. It is recommended that teachers contact local judges, court support personnel, and city prosecutors and ask them to serve as resource persons in the classroom. Resource persons can bring the lessons alive by providing real life or hypothetical examples, accurate descriptions of what the law requires, and serve as positive role models for students.



Funded by grants from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the Texas Department of Transportation.

DRSR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A wide variety of materials have been developed through collaboration with experienced, certified teachers to help teach students in grades K-12 about traffic safety. The traffic safety content is presented in conjunction with social studies, language arts, and even math curriculums. Below is a summary of the materials currently available:

The Instructional Packet:

There are four levels to the instructional packet – all on traffic safety issues. All levels are easily adaptable and can be used for all types of learners in all grade levels.

K–3 & Traffic Be Smart-Stay Safe Centers:

The early elementary lessons focus on booster seats and include a puppet script, a design-a-booster-seat activity, an *I Spy* exercise with the *Our Town* map, and a safe and unsafe matching exercise. All are highly interactive and effective with younger students. A limited number of booster seat posters are available to support the instruction.

Also included are fun, colorful activities such as traffic safety bingo, a scavenger hunt, a seek & find, the Hit the Road card game (i.e., *Go Fish*), and the Dangerous Dan card game (i.e., *Old Maid*).

Traffic Be Smart-Stay Safe Centers are designed to be independent centeractivities; these materials are also adaptable to whole group instruction. Each activity comes with a set of directions for the students to follow. Students use the provided traffic safety information sheets to complete activities such as Traffic Safety Cause & Effect, Comic Strip, Book of Facts, and Alphabet Traffic Safety.

Level One (upper elementary):

The elementary lessons introduce important skills and reinforce traffic safety concepts. Map skills are taught using the *Our Town* map. A traffic safety match up exercise helps students identify safe and unsafe behavior. After playing the TxDOT Land game, students are given the opportunity to hone decision-making skills on safety rules. The unit concludes with a city council simulation on an ordinance governing vehicle safety.

Level Two (middle school):

The *Our Town* map is used to study laws related to traffic safety, followed by an instructional game called X CAR O. This game combines traffic safety questions with a review of city, county, and state government. Students then have the opportunity to learn about the requirements for a driver's license in Texas.

Level Three (high school):

Government students evaluate traffic safety proposals, study the purpose of ignition interlock devices, and learn how a bill moves through the state legislature. A review of federalism is provided for students to review local, state, and national traffic laws. A mock legislative hearing of a DUI case is included for students to simulate the judicial process.

***Our Town* Map:**

This colorful poster shows over 20 examples of safe and unsafe behavior in a typical town. The illustration not only teaches about traffic safety and decision-making, but also builds map skills. Class sets are available, as well as a limited number of rulers and hand lenses. This is an excellent resource to generate discussion with a guest speaker from the municipal courts. The map can also be used to teach about communities and city government. (all ages).

Sponge Book (primary):

This activity book is designed to bring traffic safety knowledge to students as they wait in the cafeteria line, before the bell rings, or in any other five-minute opportunity that a teacher has to teach a short mini-lesson. The creative Sponge activities include songs, rhymes, chants, and quizzes.

Skill Building Exercises – Do Nows for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grades:

The DRSR *Do-Nows* are a set of skill building activities that build upon the content of the DRSR project while helping prepare students for the TAKS. There are currently three sets of “Do-Now” exercises, each aligned with the grade level TAKS, as well as the TEKS curriculum for social studies, language arts, and math.

Video, Audio, and Online Resources:

Background material on traffic safety is available from the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center via information sheets, audio files, web pages, and video segments. www.tmcec.com

Children’s Books:

The DRSR program offers a series of children’s books on traffic safety. These are available on the website listed above, as well as in soft cover and Big Book format. Both are available in English and Spanish. An audio file, contained on the CD in this kit, as well as on the website, allows students to listen to the stories as they read along in the book(s). A limited number of puppets are also available for students to re-enact the story of Marigold as they read.

Don’t Monkey Around With Traffic Safety – Marigold learns about traffic safety when her class goes on a field trip to a local museum. Students in the story are asked to sign a contract for safe behavior. An unexpected occurrence (losing a hair ribbon) reminds Marigold of the importance of asking adults for assistance. Spanish version: *No hagas payasadas durante paseos escolares: La seguridad no es un juego.*

The *Safe-T-Squad* – Students form a club when they realize there is a lot of unsafe behavior on campus. They become so astute at identifying safe and unsafe behavior that at the end they realize that even adults need reminders. Spanish version: *El escuadron de seguridad.*

Coloring Book – A Day in Municipal Court:

This publication, available in both English and Spanish versions, teaches students what to expect in municipal court. It reviews the role of the judge, clerk, witness, defendant, and jury. The material is an excellent resource for field trips or when teaching about courts in a unit on city government. A challenging set of rebus puzzles is included in the English version at the end. The Spanish version is entitled *Un día en el Tribunal Municipal.*

Substitute Lesson Plans:

These lesson plans were designed to stand-alone as emergency substitute plans. Four levels, covering kindergarten through high school, are included. Not only do these materials support the acquisition of the Texas ELA and Social Studies Standards (the TEKS), but they simultaneously teach traffic safety.

Mock Trial:

Three levels of mock trial scripts are included in this guide to teach students about traffic safety, as well as the legal system and our judiciary, while building verbal presentation skills. The cases involve a safety belt violation and a juvenile DUI.

ONLINE GAMES (ALL AGES)

These online games teach about traffic safety and our system of government using a fun, interactive method.



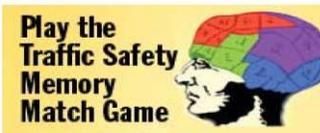
Students read a case, play as the prosecution or defense, and pick a municipal jury.



Students must decide if the question is objectionable or acceptable, considering the case witness on the stand.



This simulation will assist teachers in walking students through the Texas legislative system. Students will be asked to make the best choices as a traffic safety bill works its way through the process to becoming a law.



This game is played like *Concentration* and can be played in English or Spanish. The goal is to make as many pairs of traffic safety cards as you can in the shortest amount of time. The cards shuffle so you can play each level over and over or move on to the next level.



Students must make safe and smart choices to get from one place to another in their community.

Other Online Traffic Safety Games:

- Things on Wheels* – Answer the questions about bicycles, inline skating, and skateboarding to win! (grades 1-8)
- Bus Safety Challenge* – Do you know what it takes to stay safe on the bus? (grades 1-8)
- Young Driver Millionaire Challenge* – In the game style of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, this challenge will quiz the knowledge of would be young drivers to see if they have what it takes to be on the road. (grades 8-12)
- Traffic Safety Quiz* – Test your general knowledge of Texas traffic safety. (all levels)

MORE RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives (MTSI):

MTSI is another grant program of the Texas Department of Transportation in which municipal judges and court support personnel are encouraged to conduct public outreach programs for schools and civic groups on traffic safety issues. The purpose of MTSI is to raise public awareness of the importance of traffic safety in local communities. Many of the materials are useful as background information for classroom teachers. For information and resources, go to www.tmceec.com/tmceec/mtsi.

MTSI and DRSR Website Resources:

There are many resources available to teachers and classroom resource persons on the MTSI [www.tmceec.com/tmceec/mtsi] and DRSR [www.drsr.info] website pages that can be accessed from the TMCEC main page [www.tmceec.com]. On these sites, users will find facts and statistics, coloring books and activity pages, information sheets, videos, audio files, sample presentations and PowerPoint material, interactive games, and more. The websites are frequently updated and include excellent materials from other traffic safety projects, as well as the DRSR and MTSI program.

Sample PowerPoint Presentations:

Located on the DRSR and MTSI websites, sample PowerPoint presentations give speakers and teachers ideas about what might be included in a classroom or community group talk.

Law-Related Education Department:

The website of the Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas and Law Focused Education, Inc. also offers many resources for teaching about traffic safety and other laws with interactive strategies and interesting content. Many outstanding activities may be accessed via www.texaslre.org/ LRE website.

DRSR Workshops:

The DRSR program offers teacher training workshops via the regional education service centers, local school districts, statewide teacher conferences, and individual schools. The cost is underwritten by grant funds from the Texas Department of Transportation. Contact tmcec@tmceec.com to set up a local program. Over 400 teachers were trained in all areas of the state during the summer of 2010. These teachers will teach children traffic safety and bring municipal court representatives into the classroom to act as a resource.

Speakers Bureau:

TMCEC maintains a list of judges and court support personnel interested in speaking to student and community groups. Grant funding is sometimes available to provide speakers with handouts, maps, rulers, stickers, and other items for distribution to the audience to help reinforce the important traffic safety messages. Call TMCEC at 800.252.3718 or email tmcec@tmceec.com to volunteer as a speaker or to request a guest speaker.



A Message from the Texas Municipal Courts Association

The TMCA Outreach Committee would like to ask you to partner with us in making a difference of the lives of many in our communities through traffic safety outreach and education. We know that statistics show Texas has a distinctly significant traffic safety problem.

Municipal courts are the primary venue for adjudicating traffic related crimes in Texas. On behalf of the Texas Municipal Courts Association and Public Outreach Committee, we would like to encourage you to become involved in your community to address and work to increase traffic safety.

We ask you to:

- Let the schools know you are available. Contact your local school principal, teacher, or others who work with children and let them know you would be interested in speaking with their students.
- Encourage field trips to your courtroom. Encourage students, local preschools, boy scouts, girl scouts, 4-H groups, and other to come and visit.
- Host an Open House at Municipal Court. Make the focus on Traffic Safety Education.
- Provide educational materials to those who come to court. Hang posters in the lobby; provide handouts, coloring books, or play videos to encourage traffic safety education with all ages.
- Participate in Municipal Court Week (November 7-11, 2011).

The TMCA Public Outreach Committee would like to challenge each of you to speak to at least one group of students in your community this upcoming year. It would be great if you could tell us about your experience.

There are resources, materials and power point presentations that will assist you as you speak in the community, organize field trips, and mock trials at your court or provide as you provide outreach into your community that will be located on the TMCEC Municipal Traffic Safety website at www.tmcec.com. To place your name on the speakers' bureau, please fax this form to TMCEC at 512.435.6118.

We are enclosing a brochure about the Driving on the Right Side of the Road program. Please share this with an educator in your area. Together we can make a difference. Thank you for supporting something so important!

Sincerely,

Judge Donna Starkey
TMCA President (11-12)
Alvin, Texas

Judge Bonnie Goldstein
Chair, TMCA Public Outreach Committee
Royce City, Texas

Add Me to the Speakers' Bureau! (fax to 512.435.6118)

Name: _____ Court: _____
Title/Position: _____ Tel. # _____
Email: _____ Questions? _____



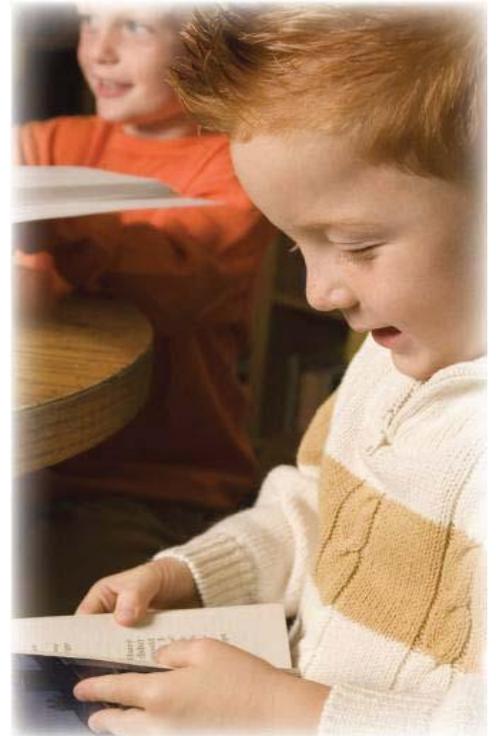
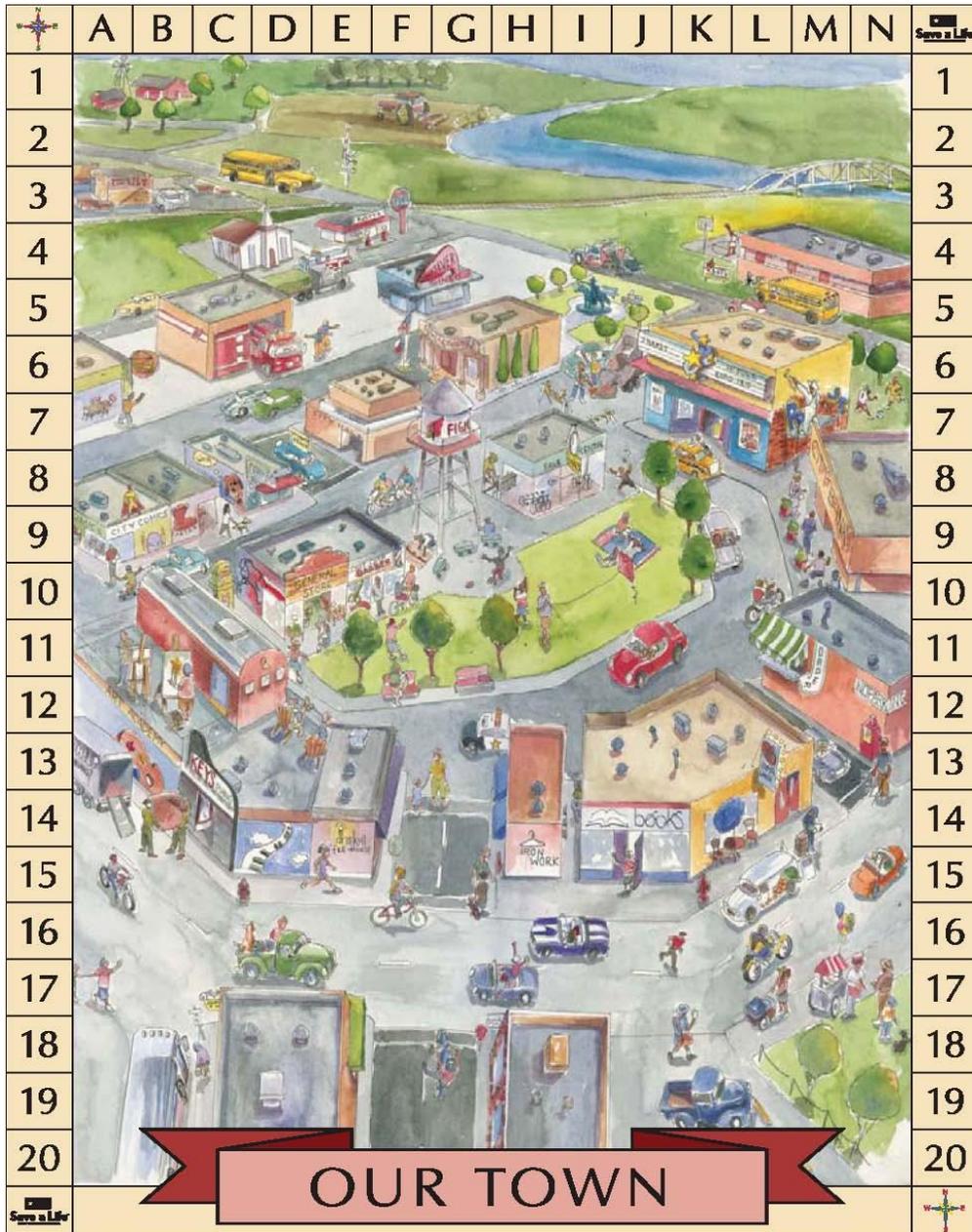
PUBLIC OUTREACH: TRAFFIC SAFETY

Judges in the Classroom

The *Our Town* Map is just one of many activities that are a part of the *Driving on the Right Side of the Road* that you can access at no-cost through TMCEC. There are several applications for this

activity. The directions for using this map, in the classroom or with students visiting your court, are included on the following pages.

One court reported that they have framed this map in their waiting room, so that children can look at it while they are in the waiting room and find safe and unsafe behaviors. It is similar to the *Highlights* magazine where you identify hidden things in the picture.



TMCEC can also provide your court with copies of this map that you can use when you visit a classroom or when talking with students who visit your court. You can also use this activity with children who are waiting in your lobby or courtroom. To obtain copies of this map, contact TMCEC at tmcec@tmcec.com or 512.320.8274.

Traffic Safety Specialists - District Contact List

The following is a list of the TxDOT District Traffic Safety Specialists (DTSS), their contact information, and the area that they serve. You may already be familiar with some of the DTSS on this list. If not, we encourage you to make contact with the DTSS in your area.

The DTSS have educational resources, can be present during special events, and partner with you to educate the community on the importance of traffic safety.

District	Name	Telephone	Fax
Abilene and Lubbock	Karen Peoples	(806) 748-4478	(806) 748-4381
Amarillo and Childress	Tracy Tellman	(806) 356-3295	(806) 356-3206
Atlanta	Irene Webster	(903) 799-1221	(903) 799-1288
Austin	Carol Campa	(512) 832-7035	(512) 832-7246
Beaumont	Georgette Pillitere	(409) 898-5719	(409) 898-5732
Brownwood and Waco	Cindy Parks	(254) 867-2725	(254) 867-2895
Bryan	Terri Miller	(979) 778-9777	(979) 778-9709
Childress and Amarillo	Tracy Tellman	(806) 356-3295	(806) 356-3206
Corpus Christi and Yoakum	Hazel Zepeda	(361) 808-2381	(361) 808-2424
Dallas	Susan Clark	(214) 320-6220	(214) 319-6568
El Paso	Monica O’Kane	(915) 790-4384	(915) 790-4349
Fort Worth	Kathy Neely	(817) 370-6626	(817) 370-3582
Houston	Garry Rand Olga Navarro	(713) 802-5187 (713) 802-5177	(713) 802-5030 (713) 802-5030
Laredo and Pharr	Ruby Martinez	(956) 782-2508	(956) 702-6110
Lubbock and Abilene	Karen Peoples	(806) 748-4478	(806) 748-4381
Lufkin	Robyn Herring	(936) 633-4315	(936) 633-4378
Odessa and San Angelo	Robert Martinez	(432) 498-4748	(432) 498-4680
Paris and Wichita Falls	Patsy Walls	(940) 720-7708	(940) 720-7707
Pharr and Laredo	Ruby Martinez	(956) 782-2508	(956) 702-6110
San Angelo and Odessa	Robert Martinez	(432) 498-4748	(432) 498-4680
San Antonio	Samuel Aguirre	(210) 731-5220	(210) 731-5305
Tyler	Wanda Ealey	(903) 510-9225	(903) 510-9158
Waco and Brownwood	Cindy Parks	(254) 867-2725	(254) 867-2895
Wichita Falls and Paris	Patsy Walls	(940) 720-7708	(940) 720-7707
Yoakum and Corpus Christi	Hazel Zepeda	(361) 808-2381	(361) 808-2424



TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER
Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives



2012
Municipal Traffic
Safety Initiatives
Awards



TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER

Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives



2012 Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Awards



Purpose:

To recognize those who work in local municipalities and have made outstanding contributions to increase traffic safety in their community. This competition is a friendly way for municipalities to increase their attention to quality of life through traffic safety activities. Best practices will be shared across the state. Each submission will be recognized.



Eligibility:

Any municipal court in the State of Texas. Entries may be submitted on behalf of the court by the following: Judge, Court Clerk, Deputy Court Clerk, Court Manager, Court Administrator, Bailiff, Marshal, Warrant Officer, City Manager, City Councilperson, Law Enforcement Representative, or a Community Member.



Awards:

Award recipients will be honored at the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) Traffic Safety Conference that will be held on March 19-21, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison.

Nine (9) prizes will be awarded:

- Two (2) in the high volume courts, *servicing a population of 150,000 or more;*
- Three (3) in the medium volume courts, *servicing populations between 30,000 and 149,999;* and
- Four (4) in the low volume courts, *servicing a population below 30,000.*

Award recipients receive for two municipal court representatives: complimentary conference registration, travel to and from the 2012 Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Conference to include airfare or mileage that is within state guidelines, two nights of accommodations at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel, and most meals and refreshments.



Honorable Mention:

If there are a number of applications that are reviewed and deemed outstanding and innovative, at the discretion of TMCEC, honorable mentions may be selected. Honorable mentions will be provided complimentary conference registration to attend the Traffic Safety Conference and will be recognized at the Traffic Safety Conference.



How Entries are Judged:

A panel of judges will review each application and assign points based on the materials submitted. After judging, the scores will be averaged and a final score assigned. *There may be categories where no awards will be presented due to a lack of entries.*

Applicants will be judged on the basis of what their court is doing in terms of public outreach in their community to increase traffic safety while decreasing traffic crashes, traffic fatalities, juvenile DUI, child safety seat offenses, red light running, and other traffic related offenses. It may be helpful to review "What Can You Do" on page four.

Section I: A maximum of 50 points can be awarded

What are you currently doing or planning to do to address traffic safety? Please provide a written report that is no longer than five pages in length. This may include details regarding, but not limited to: monthly or regular articles in local publications; sponsorship of mock trials; community outreach; distribution of written materials and pamphlets; creative sentencing; bilingual programs and initiatives on traffic safety; endorsements of the national programs such as Click It or Ticket; web-page addressing traffic safety; presentations to local civic groups and organizations; interaction with youth; outreach with repeat offenders; and community partnerships. Court programs may be represented in conjunction with city departments, local schools, civic groups, and other community programs.

Section II: A maximum of 30 points can be awarded

Attachments/Samples. Seeing is believing. Show us samples or digital photos of your materials. This may include, but is not limited to: **copies** (*these will not be returned*) of photos, news articles, press releases, materials you distribute, copies of your web-pages, flyers, and letters of support.

Section III: A maximum of 20 points can be awarded

Neatness, organization of materials, and following submission guidelines.



Entry Rules:

- **Three copies** of the application packet must be submitted.
- Provide a completed application form/packet that includes the application form.
- All typed pages should be 1.5 or double spaced, printed single-sided in at least a font size of 12, *excluded: attachments and samples do not have to follow these guidelines.*
- Each application packet can not contain more than thirty (30) pages or documents, including attachments, pictures, and supporting documentation. You may include letters of support as long as you do not exceed page limitations. If, for example, you create a four page handout on Juvenile DUI to distribute to your local schools, this will count as one document.

- Applications are divided into three (3) categories:
 - *High Volume Courts are those serving a population of 150,000 or more;*
 - *Medium Volume Courts are those serving populations between 30,000 and 149,999; and*
 - *Low Volume Courts are those serving a population below 30,000.*

- Please provide copies only, **no originals**, as your submission will not be returned,
- **No late submissions will be considered.**



General Tips on a Winning Submission:

- First impressions count. A neat, well-organized submission that is easy to understand during the judging makes a big difference.
- Make sure that all of the information you want the judges to see is securely attached.



Deadline:

Entries must be postmarked no later than **Friday, December 30, 2011.**

Send applications to:

TMCEC – Traffic Safety Awards
Attn: Lisa Robinson, CFLE
Traffic Safety Grant Administrator
1609 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Suite 302
Austin, TX 78701



Notification:

Award recipients and Honorable Mention winners will be notified by February 10, 2012 and will be honored during the Traffic Safety Conference to be held March 19-21, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison.



Best Practices:

Information submitted will be compiled and shared statewide for community networking, collaboration and an example of best practices.



For More Information:

For more information, please contact Lisa R. Robinson, CFLE, Traffic Safety Grant Administrator, at robinson@tmcec.com.



Traffic safety benefits can go far beyond the traffic stop!

What Can You Do?

- Get involved
- Add traffic safety materials to your city's and court's websites
- Host a warrant round-up with nearby cities
- Invite school groups into your court
- Start a proactive fine collection program
- Recognize situations where a "fine is not fine"
- Join the TMCEC listserv on traffic safety
- Approve adequate funding, staff, and support for your municipal court
- Speak to local civic groups on the importance of traffic safety
- Build community partnerships
- Ask law enforcement officers and prosecutors to work together to identify at-risk drivers in your community
- Create meaningful sentencing alternatives for repeat offenders, especially juveniles and minors using deferred disposition
- At the close of a trial after sentencing, remind jurors and court observers of the



TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER

Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives



TMCEC Traffic Safety Award Application

Deadline: December 30, 2011 (postmarked)

Please print all information as you would like to appear on the award

Name of Person Submitting & Position: _____

Court Nominated: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone number: (____) _____ - _____ Email address: _____

Category (please check one):

- _____ *High Volume Court: serving a population of 150,000 or more*
- _____ *Medium Volume Court: serving populations between 30,000 and 149,999*
- _____ *Low Volume Court: serving a population below 30,000*

Judge's Signature: _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA:

Section I: Written Report: Maximum of 50 points: _____

Section II: Attachments/Samples: Maximum of 30 points: _____

Section III: Neatness, Organization of Materials
& Following Submission Guidelines: Maximum of 20 points: _____

Total Points Awarded: _____

Notes: _____

TMCEC - DRSR - Information Sheets

TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER

PROGRAMS RESOURCES LINKS STORE ABOUT TMCEC CONTACT US TMCA SEARCH

DRSR - Information Sheets

Information Sheets

- [Aggressive Driving](#)
- [Bicycle Safety](#)
- [Cell Phones & Texting](#)
- [Distracted Driving](#)
- [Driving While Intoxicated & Driving Under the Influence](#)
- [Drowsy Driving](#)
- [Ignition Interlock](#)
- [In-Line skating](#)
- [Motorcycles](#)
- [Passenger Safety](#)
- [Pedestrians](#)
- [Pets & Driving](#)
- [Railroad Crossings](#)
- [School Buses & School Zones](#)
- [Seat Belt & Child Restraints](#)
- [Skateboarding](#)
- [Things With Wheels](#)
- [Turn Around Don't Drown](#)
- [Young Drivers](#)

For more information contact TMCEC at 800.252.3718
A project of the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center
in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation

Save a Life
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC SAFETY INITIATIVES
Save a Life
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DRIVING on the RIGHT SIDE of the ROAD

DRSR - Information Sheets

- Do Nows
- Bus Safety
- Information Sheets**
- Judges in the Classroom
- List Serv
- Mock Trials
- On-Line Learning/Games
- Resources
- Safety Centers
- 2011 Statewide Conference
- Substitute Lesson Plans
- Teaching Materials
- Teacher Resource Section
- Training Dates
- Trainer Resource Section
- Traffic Safety Games

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Website Design and Development: Cold Shower Design

I PROMISE TO OBEY...

Target Audience: Elementary

Objectives: The students will:

1. Meet a municipal judge and learn that a judge's job is to keep people safe by encouraging them to follow the law;
2. Recognize the difference between laws (which are meant to keep people safe) and rules or safe practices (that are meant to keep people safe, but are not laws);
3. Identify several safe practices and laws pertaining to pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists;
4. Take an oath to obey a law and follow a safe practice of their choice.

VTEKS/TAKS:

Materials Needed: Chalkboard or overhead projector; Oath certificate downloadable from TMCEC website

Teaching Instructions:

1. The teacher will introduce the judge and have the judge tell the students a little bit about him or herself.
2. The judge will tell the students about a judge's job (no more than 5 or 10 minutes to keep their attention), with the main point being that a judge's job is to keep people safe by encouraging them to follow the law.
 - When people break laws, they get in trouble. A police officer typically either arrests the person, takes them to jail, or writes them a ticket telling them what they did wrong.
 - Police officers are not being mean, but their job is to make sure people are following the laws.
 - When a person gets in trouble with a police officer, the person will have to see the judge, who will determine whether the person broke the law.
 - The judge is not there just to punish the person, but to keep people safe and make sure they start following and follow the law.
3. The judge will then ask the students what a safe practice is (i.e., something that is a good idea to do just to be safe, but there's not really a law requiring you to), what a rule is (i.e., something that someone tells you that you must do or not do, usually to make sure you stay safe, that you could get in trouble for by a teacher or parent, but is not against the law), and what a law is (i.e., something that tells you how you must or must not act to not only keep you safe, but also keep you from breaking the law and being punished by a court).
4. Have the students brainstorm by calling out different safe practices (oftentimes rules that parents or teachers have) or laws they know of, or tell the students that they will not get in trouble, but to name one rule they have broken. The judge may have to give examples from the following list:

RULES/SAFE PRACTICES

LAWS

-
- Raise your hand before you talk in class
 - Don't talk to strangers
 - Never get in a car with a stranger
 - Hold an adult's hand when you cross the street
 - Look both ways before you cross the street
 - Don't chase a ball out into the street (ask an adult to get it for you)
 - Wear a helmet when you ride your bicycle
 - Don't ride your bike without using your hands
 - Wear a helmet and knee/elbow pads when you skateboard or roller skate
 - When getting off the school bus, always walk in front of the bus, not behind it
 - Don't walk around on the school bus; stay in your seat and sit on your pockets
 - Call home if you need help or are going to be late
- Stop at a stop sign when riding your bicycle
 - Don't carry a person on the handlebars of your bicycle
 - Don't hang on to a car while on a bicycle, skateboard, or roller skates and have the car pull you
 - Always have a reflector on your bicycle when riding at night
 - Ride your bicycle going the same direction as the rest of traffic
 - Use hand signals if you are going to stop or turn
 - Do not walk across a street if the cars going the same way you are walking have a red light
 - Do not cross the street when the signal says "Don't Walk" or "Wait"
 - Do not step out in front of a moving car
 - Do not walk diagonally across an intersection
 - Always walk in the crosswalk if one is provided
 - Walk on the sidewalk if there is one, not on the street
 - If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road facing the rest of traffic
 - Do not carry a white cane on a street unless you are blind – white canes are for blind people only
 - Drivers must follow the speed limit
 - Cars must stop for a school bus when kids are getting on or off
 - Do not race in a car
 - Don't drink and drive
 - Wear your seatbelt or ride in your booster seat
 - Don't drink alcohol (or beer) until you are 21
 - Don't hitch-hike
 - Don't ride in the back of a pick-up truck until you're 18
 - Don't ride on a motorcycle until you're 18
5. Going one step further, discuss what happens when you don't follow a safe practice (i.e., you might get hurt), when you break a rule (i.e., you go to the principal's office, you might be grounded by your parents or be sent to time-out), and when you break a law (i.e., you get in trouble with a police officer and have to go see the judge).
6. Have the students all pick one law and one safe practice (or rule) that can promise to always follow. Depending on the grade and ability of the children, pass out the "Oath" certificate attached to this lesson to each student and have them write out the law or safe practice (which should be spelled out on the board already) on the certificate. For younger grades, have the teacher and

judge go around the room and write out the law and safe practice on each child's certificate. For ease, the judge can sign all the certificates before being passed out to the children.

7. Have the judge explain to the children what an oath is:
 - When people come to court to tell what they saw or heard in a case, or when people are picked to be on a jury that will decide whether someone committed a crime or should win in a case, they must promise to tell the truth.
 - When a person is named as a judge, the judge has to promise to uphold the law.
 - Making this promise is called taking an oath.
8. Have the judge tell the students that today they get to take an oath, just like a judge gets to, to always promise to follow the law and safe practice that they chose. Have the judge stand at the front of the room, have all the children stand up and raise their right hand, and read the following:

Judge: Repeat after me. I...

Class: I...

Judge: Now say you're name

Class: {say name in unison}

Judge: ...do hereby promise...

Class: ...do hereby promise...

Judge: ...to obey the law...

Class: ...to obey the law...

Judge: ...and always be safe...

Class: ...and always be safe...

Judge: ..from this day forward.

Class: ...from this day forward.

Judge: Congratulations! You are now all safe, law-abiding citizens!

9. Finally, let the class clap for each other, sit back down, and perhaps leave time for the students to ask questions of the judge.

Variation: Each student (or groups of students) could receive a copy of the *Our Town* map (available to teachers and judges in large, color-printed version or available for download and print from the TMCEC website). Students could identify some of the laws and rules being broken from the map in a "tattling" session. Alternatively, students could take turns coming up to the front of the room and circling a violation of law or an unsafe practice on one large map hanging on a wall or the blackboard. Students can then choose a safe practice and law from the things identified from the map.

The following list identifies the laws and safe practices illustrated in the *Our Town* map (coordinates are given to help locate the illustration):

RULES / SAFE PRACTICES

LAWS

-
- Wear a helmet when riding a bicycle [F-8 is]
 - Wear a helmet when roller skating [D-11 is, M-9 is not]
 - Wear a helmet and pads when skateboarding [H-10 is]
 - Do not run out in the street to get a ball [J-8 did]
 - Hold an adult's hand when crossing the street [G-13 and A-17 are]
 - Don't talk to strangers [maybe G-15 is]
 - If you are blind, use a white can [N-13 is]
 - Buses must stop at railroad crossings [like D-3]
 - Cars must stop for emergency vehicles [like car in D-7 did for fire truck]
 - Cars may not drive on the wrong side of the road [like car in H-17 is]
 - Kids under 18 may not ride in the back of a pick-up truck [like kid in D-16 is]
 - You must wear a seat belt [H-17, I-16, J11]
 - A person on a skateboard, bicycle, or roller skates cannot hang onto the back of a car and be pulled by the car [like the skateboarder in B-10 is]
 - You cannot carry someone on the handlebars of a bicycle [like the kids in F-10]
 - When riding a bicycle, you must ride in the same direction as traffic is moving [F-16]
 - People are motorcyclists must wear a helmet (only some people over 21 don't have to) [A-15 is not, while G-18, L-10, and L-16 are]
 - You must cross the street in a crosswalk if there is one [G-13 is, K-16 is not]

Oath

I, _____,

do hereby promise to obey the following traffic law:

and always be safe by making sure I

from this day forward.

Awarded on this _____ day of the month of _____, 20 ____.

Law Abiding Student

Judge, Municipal Court, City of _____



Driving on the Right Side of the Road Materials Request

Please print:

Name: _____ Email address: _____

Court: _____

Mailing address: Please provide the address where you want the materials sent:

City: _____ Zip code: _____

Materials requested: Note: Materials will be provided as long as there is funding and the materials are in stock.

- Mock Trials (1) (Or, you may request up to 5 at no charge. Indicate how many _____)
- Big Book (11" X 15") – *Don't Monkey Around with Traffic Safety* (1)
- Big Book (11" X 15") – *The Safety T-Squad* (1)
- Student Version – *The Safety T-Squad* ___ English or ___ Spanish (limited to up to 10 copies of each)
- Student Version – *Don't Monkey Around with Traffic Safety* ___ English or ___ Spanish (limited to up to 10 copies of each)
- Growth Chart Poster on Child Safety Seats (1)
- Municipal Court Coloring Book ___ English or ___ Spanish (limited to up to 30 copies of each at no charge)
- Class Set of Our Town Map (25)

Additional resources are located on the DRDR website at: www.drsr.info

To receive the materials requested, please fax this form back to: 512.435.6118, scan and email to tmcec@tmcec.com or mail to: TMCEC, 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd. #302, Austin, TX 78701. Questions? Email Lisa Robinson at robinson@tmcec.com or call her at 512.320.8274.

Note: Materials will be provided as long as there is funding and the materials are in stock.

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Please write a short statement as to how you plan to use these materials:

