



**State of Illinois**  
Pat Quinn, Governor

**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
Erica J. Borggren, Acting Secretary

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
August 12, 2014

**CONTACT:**  
Paris Ervin 217.782.5025  
Guy Tridgell 312.793.4199

## **IDOT, Ford Motor Company Fund, Allstate and ISP Partner to Save Teen Lives on Illinois Roadways**

*Safety Advocates Kick-Off Eighth Year of Operation Teen Safe  
Driving Program at Illinois State Fair*

**SPRINGFIELD** - Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) officials today joined representatives from Ford, The Allstate Foundation and the Illinois State Police at the Illinois State Fairgrounds to kick off the eighth year of Operation Teen Safe Driving (OTSD). The statewide program, also sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund, is administered by IDOT's Division of Transportation Safety. Since 2007, this nationally recognized program, has contributed to a 55 percent decline in teen fatalities resulting from motor vehicle crashes on Illinois roadways, including teen drivers, passengers, pedestrians and pedacyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes.

"We at IDOT are pleased to be working with many partner organizations and schools to highlight for teenagers the importance of wearing seatbelts and staying focused on the road," said Acting Transportation Secretary Erica Borggren. "This peer-led program is one of a kind, and we are proud of the positive impact it has made to help save lives on Illinois roadways."

"This is all about the safety of our young people and their driving skills because safe driving habits begin early and last a lifetime," said ISP Director Hiram Grau. "Teens who embrace a culture of safe driving and respect the rules of the road avoid law enforcement and ultimately become responsible adult drivers," he added.

The goal of Operation Teen Safe Driving is to reduce teen fatalities and injuries by utilizing the creativity of Illinois teens in a friendly competition to influence their respective communities. The program enables all Illinois high schools to apply for grants to initiate a peer-led teen safe driving program within their schools. The schools compete against other schools within their regions for one of five winning spots. The winners receive prize money to use toward post-prom



**Illinois Department of Transportation**

events, and are invited to participate in Ford Motor Company Fund's Driving Skills for Life Ride and Drive events in Spring 2015.

"Ford Driving Skills for Life is once again proud to partner with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Allstate to bring the award winning 'Operation Teen Safe Driving Program' to schools again this year. Over the past seven years we have reached over 500 schools for peer-to-peer programming and trained thousands of students on needed hands-on driving skills. Helping save teen lives requires everyone working together and as such we remain very happy to support this great public/private partnership, said Jim Graham, Manager Ford Driving Skills for Life."

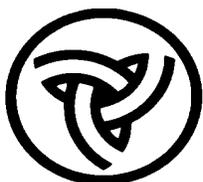
This lifesaving, innovative program is augmented by crucial sponsorships from the Ford Motor Company Fund and The Allstate Foundation as it enlists young people to teach and promote safe driving skills to their peers.

"As The Allstate Foundation continues to help teens focus on safe driving behaviors, such as wearing a seat belt and limiting distractions, we are proud to support Operation Teen Safe Driving again this year," said Bill McGrath, Regional Sales Leader for the Midwest Region of Allstate Insurance Company. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with IDOT to build upon our rich histories of helping prevent teen fatalities on the road in Illinois."

Applications are now available at [www.teensafedrivingillinois.org](http://www.teensafedrivingillinois.org) and are due September 15, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year. Based on the applications submitted, a minimum of 10 schools will be selected from each of the seven regions. Those selected schools will then receive \$2,000 to develop their teen safe driving program. From each of the seven regions, five top winners will receive prizes to be used at their post-prom events in amounts from \$500 to \$2,500. In addition to the monetary prizes, each of the winning schools will be invited to attend one of the Ford Motor Company Fund's Driving Skills for Life Ride and Drive events. The events provide a lifetime opportunity for teens to learn critical driving techniques from professional drivers in a controlled environment.

The selection process requires students to identify significant traffic safety issues within each of their communities, including underage drinking, driving unbuckled, driving impaired and driving distracted. The teen proposals will provide information explaining how they would combat the problem and implement a teen awareness program in their school and community. A total of 105 high schools participated in the 2013-14 program.

###



**Illinois Department of Transportation**