



Welcome to the Smart Riders program! We have included this “how to” guide to help you prepare, plan, and implement Smart Riders in your community. If you still have questions after you read this guide, please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation’s (MoDOT) Highway Safety and Traffic Division at 1-800-800-BELT (2358). Thanks for participating in Smart Riders. We hope you enjoy bringing this life saving information to the children of your community!

WHY?

Children are one of our most vulnerable when it comes to roadway users. Whether crossing the street, riding their bicycle, or being a passenger in a vehicle, children must be educated on the safest ways to get to and from their destination. According to the 2021 Missouri Child Passenger Seat Survey, only 91% of children under the age of 4 were restrained in a vehicle. In 2021, 21 children under the age of 10 were either seriously injured or killed as a pedestrian.

The MoDOT Highway Safety and Traffic Division developed the Smart Riders program as a fun and interactive way to encourage children in 1st through 5th grade to learn the importance of safety in vehicles and along the roadway.

WHO?

Smart Riders is intended for 1st through 5th grade children. The modules are at a reading level based on these age groups.

HOW?

The Smart Riders program is designed in such a way that a teacher or community member does not have to be completely hands-on if they so choose. They can simply send the parent/caregiver letter home with the child and provide the chosen reward once they have received confirmation of completion. Informational packets will be sent to different community agencies, such as schools, libraries, and other youth programs.

The packets will include this informational letter, a parent/caregiver letter explaining how to complete the program with their child, Smart Riders card brochures, ideas for non-tangible rewards, and examples of tangible rewards that are available upon request at the MoDOT Highway Safety and Traffic Division.

The link for the Smart Riders program is found on the SaveMOLives.com website. The parent/caregiver can either click the “Smart Riders” link at the top of the landing page, or by clicking on the “Smart Riders” logo on that same landing page to get to the program.

You can choose whether to assign one module for the child to complete at a time or you can have the children complete all four modules. It is solely up to you! Once the child completes a module, they will have the opportunity to download the certificate and either print it off or show on their device. Once a certificate is shown, they have earned a reward. Again, this can be anything! Creativity is key!

Remember, our goal is always to keep children safe and in bringing the Smart Riders messages to your community, you are helping make each and every one of those children safe!

If you have additional questions, please contact us at the information below. Good luck and we hope you enjoy the Smart Riders program!

MoDOT Highway Safety and Traffic Division

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1-800-800-BELT (2358)

Savemolives.com

