



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ADPH announces 2008 Safety Coloring Book winners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health annually sponsors a coloring book contest, open to kindergarten through sixth grade students, which promotes seat belt and child restraint use. The use of child safety seats and safety belts has been shown to be the single most effective measure in preventing and reducing serious and fatal injuries during motor vehicle collisions.

“Appropriate car seats can reduce the risk of death for infants by 71 percent and for toddlers by 54 percent,” said Victoria Broussard, health educator. “We urge parents to ensure their children’s safety and booster seats are properly installed, especially during National Child Passenger Safety Week, Sept. 21-28. The ‘Buckle-Up, Alabama!’ Contest is a wonderful way to help educate children and parents from across the state about the benefits of buckling up. In addition, the end result is children reaching out to other children.”

Children’s advocate Julie Cole Farmer, associate director of Safe Kids Alabama and coordinator of the Child Passenger Safety Resource Center in Birmingham, believes that child passenger safety educational programs are vital to the health and welfare of Alabama’s children.

Ms. Farmer stated, “We continue to see far too many children come through the emergency department of Children’s Health System because parents improperly restrained their children.” She stresses the importance of the use of booster seats for older children, parents becoming “hands on” with nationally certified child passenger safety technicians, and use of educational resources available in the state.

Alabama law states that each front-seat occupant of a “passenger car” must have a safety belt properly fastened about his/her body any time the vehicle is in motion. In addition, the law also requires use of child safety restraint systems. Under the conditions of the law every person who is transporting a child up to the age of 15 in a motor vehicle registered in this state must properly restrain such children in a child passenger restraint system that meets federal standards.

STEPS FOR CHILD SAFETY SEATS:

- Rear-facing infant only or convertible rear-facing seats: birth to at least age 1 and 20 pounds.
- Forward-facing child safety seats: age 1 to about 4 and 20 to 40 pounds.
- Booster seats: about ages 4 to 8, 40 to 80 pounds, and under 4 feet 9 inches tall.
- Lap and shoulder belts: at least age 8 or over 4 feet 9 inches tall and the child is able to sit with his or her back firmly against the seat, knees bent over the seat and feet touching the floor.

2008 Contest Winners

Kindergarten

1st Place, Anna Nelson, West Morgan Elementary School, Trinity

2nd Place, Tionna Clemmons, W.O. Parmer Elementary School, Greenville

Honorable Mention

Liz James, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

Kaleigh Grimmer, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

Emily Hawkins, Barkley Bridge Elementary School, Hartselle

First Grade

1st Place, Gage Tucker, West Morgan Elementary School, Trinity

2nd Place, Sarah Kelly, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

Honorable Mention

Maria LaSala, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

Trace Thompson, Addison Elementary School, Addison

Markell Crenshaw, W.O. Parmer Elementary School, Greenville

Second Grade

1st Place, Hyeonjeong Park, Heritage Elementary School, Madison

2nd Place, Tai Shawn Peager, W.O. Parmer Elementary School, Greenville

Honorable Mention

Miranda Leonard, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

Josey Bradley, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

Angelica Gasper, West Morgan Elementary School, Trinity

Third Grade

1st Place, Katherine Blackwell, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

2nd Place, Clayton Baldree, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

Honorable Mention

Jeremy McCants, Cobb Elementary School, Anniston

Zoe Thomas, Graham Elementary School, Talladega

Wyatt Smith, West Morgan Elementary School, Trinity

Fourth Grade

1st Place, Elaina Fernandez, Ohatchee Elementary School, Ohatchee

2nd Place, Tyniquia Parker, T.S. Morris Elementary School, Montgomery

Honorable Mention

Sydney Edmonds, Heritage Elementary School, Madison

Markeysia Evans, C.F. Hard Elementary School, Bessemer

Madison Hunt, Crossville Elementary School, Crossville

Fifth Grade

1st Place, Glen Nolte, Saks Middle School, Anniston

2nd Place, David Abel, Maxwell AFB Elementary, Montgomery

Honorable Mention

Johnnie Dunn, Cobb Elementary School, Anniston

Emily Mewborne, Maxwell AFB Elementary School, Montgomery

Maggie Williams, Morris Avenue Intermediate School, Opelika

Sixth Grade

1st Place, Charlotte Thomas, Brilliant Elementary School, Brilliant
2nd Place, Samantha Harrington, Brilliant Elementary School, Brilliant
Honorable Mention

David Reynolds, Sixth Grade Academy (Shiloh), Sardis
Hannah Street, Graham Elementary School, Talladega
Shayna Roddy, Randolph Elementary School, Randolph

For more information contact the Alabama Department of Public Health, Injury
Prevention Branch, at 1-800-252-1818
Children's Connection Line at 1-800-504-9768
Child Passenger Safety Web site at <http://www.cpsalabama.org/>