



# STRIDES FOR SAFETY

## A NATIONAL SAFETY EVENT TO CELEBRATE YOUTH SAFETY

**Who:** Youth and adults representing over 30 national and state organizations.

**What:** This national event focuses on the POSITIVE strides youth are making toward their own future – a chance to celebrate youth’s activism for highway safety, a violence-free world, alcohol/drug-free healthy bodies – whatever YOUR group focuses on to empower youth to lead healthy, safe lives. Come join us – let your voice be heard!! EACH state team will plan their own event ... could be a five-mile walk to the capital, a rally in a park, events throughout the state ... get involved and help with the planning! This event will help gain media attention in support of youth safety issues.

**When:** Strides for Safety Month will be April 1996. Strides can be in conjunction with other awareness efforts during that month. The culminating celebration day will be April 27... a nationally recognized day to celebrate youth.

**Where:** State capitals, cities, county parks – once again, the state planning team designs their Strides for Safety project.

**Why:** To empower youth to lead healthy, safe lives – and to show the world that young people are getting busy with their future!

Strides for Safety is made possible through a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This endeavor is supported by National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS), a network of national organizations collaborating

to provide information, programs and resources for America’s youth. NOYS uses collective resources, talents, and experience to deliver and promote safety and injury prevention information with youth, families and communities.

**If you want to get involved with your state planning, please call or write for further information. Be a part of it!**

**STRIDES FOR SAFETY**  
2428 Gravelly Beach Loop  
Olympia, WA 98502  
(360) 866-1471

### National Organizations for Youth Safety

American Automobile Association  
American Coalition for Traffic Safety  
BACCHUS & GAMMA Peer Education Network  
Brain Injury Association  
Children’s Safety Network  
Circle K International  
DECA  
Department of Education  
Emergency Medical Services for Children  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Emergency Nurses Cancel Alcohol Related Emergencies  
4-H Youth Development  
Future Homemakers of America  
Indian Health Service

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
National Association of Governors’ Highway Safety Representatives  
National Association of School Resource Officers  
National Association of Student Councils/National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Association of Teen Institutes  
National Commission Against Drunk Driving  
National Federation of State High School Associations TARGET Program  
National FFA  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
National Parents and Teachers Association

National Peer Helpers Association  
National SAFE KIDS Campaign  
National Safety Belt Coalition  
National Safety Council  
National Student Safety Program/American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association  
Network of Employers for Traffic Safety  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Department of Justice  
PRIDE  
Remove Intoxicated Drivers  
Students Against Driving Drunk  
THINK FIRST Foundation  
United National Indian Tribal Youth

*The mission of NOYS is to marshal resources and build synergistic partnerships that save lives, prevent injuries, and promote healthy lifestyles among youth.*



# HIGHLIGHTS of Strides for Safety 1995

On April 8, 1995, Strides for Safety swept across the country, with 24 states participating. Not bad for a first-time project, with inclement weather in many states!

Here are some highlights of the innovative ways that states coordinated the Strides for Safety event. Let them be the seed for ideas for your successful Strides for Safety.



**Alabama:** Alabama had seven Strides for Safety events statewide, providing more opportunities for people to be involved in community efforts to salute youth involvement with safety issues. Publicity included print public service announcements and television news coverage. Events featured speakers, walks, contests, and safety demonstrations of various types.



**Connecticut:** On April 6, over 200 high school and middle school students participated in a legislative training session held by MADD, Drugs Don't Work and several state prevention agencies. The focus of this event was passage of a 0.02 (zero tolerance) law in the state. Students rallied on the state house steps, where the state attorney general, several state senators and Governor John Rowland spoke. A pile of sneakers – symbolizing the victims of drinking and driving crashes – were placed in front of the speaker's platform. Students visited their elected representatives and pushed for zero tolerance legislation. After four years of failed legislation, the zero tolerance bill was passed in July. Governor Rowland has said that *this event aided in the passage of the law*.



**Florida:** Mitsubishi supplied a lead car for the march held in Tallahassee on the campus of Florida State University. Several speakers, including sports coaches, addressed the group. The planning team, with many representatives from NOYS, worked hard to make this event a reality.



**Hawaii:** A combined Project Prom/Graduation and Strides for Safety event was a huge success, with over 550 students and advisors attending a rally, concert, and pizza and chocolate chip cookie party. Participating groups included US Customs Explorers, Army Youth Services, the Department of Education, MADD, Coalition for Drug Free Hawaii, the Hawaii Department of Youth Traffic Safety, THINK FIRST and the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. *The local community donated \$7400 to support the event.*



**Kansas:** SADD, MADD, NHTSA, the Kansas Safety Belt Drive, the Alcohol Safety Action Project, the SAFE KIDS Campaign, the Kansas DOT and the Highway Patrol joined efforts to have Strides for Safety throughout the state. It was a solid first year effort.



**Kentucky:** SADD, FHA, FFA, STARS, DAWGS, and other youth groups combined their efforts for two events. Three schools held the "Battle of the Belts" seat belt competitions and aired safety announcements. *Over 3,400 students took part.*



**New York:** Despite gray skies, wind, and near freezing temperatures, *over 200 young people raised \$1000*, the highest total recorded. A funeral procession for "Old Joe Camel," a Judo demonstration, a health/safety fair, and numerous safety demonstrations highlighted the event. Corporate sponsor Mitsubishi Motor Sales of North America provided two cars for a display encouraging youth to buckle up. Local businesses contributed over 50 prizes for participants.



**Oklahoma:** A small group of determined walkers from UNITY and area high schools marched in downtown Oklahoma City. Police blockaded traffic and students walked to a park where they listened to a speaker talk about her brother's death in an alcohol-related crash.



**Wyoming:** A two-mile walk in the capital city of Cheyenne was led by a 1995 Mitsubishi Eclipse, provided by the national sponsor. *About 150 students participated in the march* as part of their state youth highway safety conference.

## Sound like fun? Want to get involved?

Find out if your state is involved by contacting the project office (listed on the reverse side). If you want to coordinate a community event, we'll help you! Ask for a copy of the Strides for Safety manual and the state resource guide which lists all the state affiliates for the NOYS organizations.