

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NE Kansas Students *Ride Away* with Regional Honors in the 2010 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day Poster Contest

Corissa Bandel (Oskaloosa), Youna Song (Manhattan), and Ashley Grimm (Morrill) are the Northeast Kansas regional winners in the 2010 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest. As a regional winner, each student will receive a bicycle donated by Wal-Mart Store #1802 in Topeka and a bicycle helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Kansas Highway Patrol presented the students with their regional and/or statewide honors at a presentation event held on Saturday, November 6 at 11 a.m. at Wal-Mart Store #1802 located at 1501 Southwest Wanamaker Road, Topeka.

“We have always stressed to all our children the importance of buckling up every time they enter a vehicle,” said Chrissy Bandel, Corissa’s mother. “Her poster creation ‘Buckle Up for More Birthdays’ confirms for me that seat belt safety is already top of mind for 6-year-old Corissa.”

“I am very proud that Youna recognizes the importance of safety,” stated Youna’s mother, Irin Kim, “I know that she worked hard and put her all into creating her winning poster.” According to Marci Grimm, Ashley’s mother, “Her ‘recipe to safety’ themed poster really stirs my heart as it demonstrates to me that Ashley understands safety and the importance that it plays in our daily lives.” “Knowing that young eyes are watching me constantly, I have become more cognizant in taking the extra time to focus on driver safety every time I get behind the wheel,” added Marci, echoing the sentiment of both other mothers as well.

Not only did Corissa and Youna take home regional honors, but they were selected as statewide winners as well. As statewide winners, both students won a family package to the Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City (KS) and a \$50 gas card compliments of the QuikTrip Corporation.

Corissa Bandel attends the Lawrence Virtual School, Lawrence; Youna Song attends the Amanda Arnold Elementary School, Manhattan; and Ashley Grimm attends the Prairie Meadows Private School, Sabetha. Corissa was presented honors for the 5-7-year-old category; Youna for the 8-10-year-old category, and Ashley for the 11-13-year-old category.

A total of 18 winners from six different regions and three separate age groups (ages 5-7, ages 8-10 and ages 11-13) across the state will each receive a bicycle donated by Wal-Mart Stores in Kansas as well as a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas.

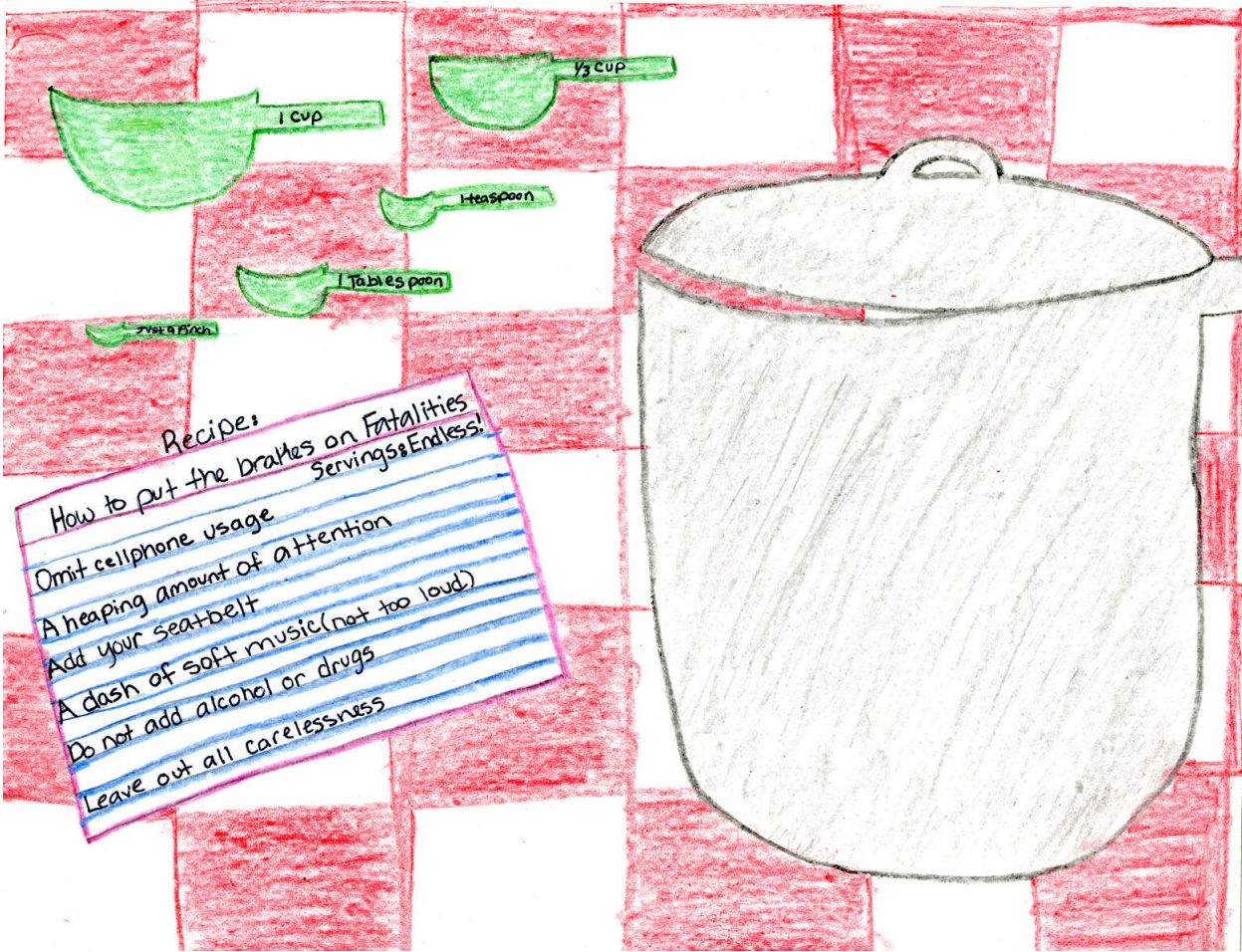
Over 766 poster contest entries were received across the state with 18 students receiving regional recognition and three students receiving statewide recognition. The poster contest helps bring awareness to all ages for the need to reduce fatalities on our nation's highways. Numerous transportation organizations across the state sponsor this annual event.

For more information on Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day, visit www.brakesonfatalities.org. For questions or additional information, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340.

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NOTE: Electronic copies of the students' artwork are attached to this release.

This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.



Buckle UP



PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES



NO CELL-
PHONES

PUT ON
YOUR
SEAT
BELT

DONT
DRINK
AND
DRIVE

DONT
GO OVER
SPEED
LIMIT

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October 10, 2010

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