

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three NE Kansas Students *Ride Off* with Regional & Statewide Honors in Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day Poster Contest

Jared and Hannah Rokey, (brother and sister), and Chad Goodman (Jared and Hannah's cousin) all of Sabetha, are the three northeast Kansas regional winners in the annual 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 statewide honors at a presentation event held on Saturday, November 21 at 11 a.m. at Wal-Mart Store #1802 located at 1501 Southwest Wanamaker Road in Topeka.

"I am glad to see safety awareness being taught to students of all ages," stated Sheila Rokey, Jared and Hannah's mother. "We are elated that Jared and Hannah won as they are enthusiastic bike riders."

According to Luci Goodman, Chad's mother, "It is so important for all of us in our busy daily lives to remember to stop and focus on safety in whatever we do." She agreed with Ms. Rokey, "No one is ever too young to learn about safety. That is why this poster contest is so important as it helps teach safety to so many young minds."

All three student winners attend the Prairie Meadows Private School located near Sabetha. According to Charleen Hartter, Art Instructor at the school, "This poster contest was a great creative and educational project to kick-off the school year and we are honored that our students have been chosen as regional winners."

Not only did Jared, Hannah and Chad take home regional honors, but they were selected as statewide winners as well. As statewide winners, Jared won a family vacation package to the Grand Prairie Hotel/Convention Center in Hutchinson, Hannah won a family vacation package to the Courtyard

Marriott in Junction City, and Chad won a family vacation package to the Capitol Plaza in Topeka. In addition, all three winners received \$50 gas cards compliments of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas.

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 690 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.