



Release of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Larry Campbell
Sheriff

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Leon County Sheriff's Office Implements the Florida Sheriff's Association Teen Driver Challenge

Tomorrow, Friday June 20, 2008, Sheriff Larry Campbell will address the first class of teen drivers, attending the Florida Sheriff's Association Teen Driver Challenge in Leon County. This new and innovative program is designed to provide teen drivers with knowledge and hands-on driving experience to reduce the chances of being in an auto accident. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of teen fatalities in America. Traffic crashes occur every 12 seconds in the United States.

The Teen Driver Challenge was developed and designed for the FSA by law enforcement driving professionals from many Florida Sheriff's Offices. This program is offered to all Florida Sheriffs. The Leon County Sheriff's Office hosted the pilot Teen Driver Challenge last year, and from that class the Statewide Florida Sheriff's Teen Driver Challenge was structured and the curriculum was completed. This two day class includes a 4-hour classroom instructional session and an 8-hour vehicle operations activity on a training course

The first class of 15 Leon County students will begin today, June 19, 2008, from 1:00p.m. to 5:00p.m., with classroom instruction at the Leon County Sheriff's Office. Students will then complete the 8-hour vehicle operation activity tomorrow, Friday June 20, 2008, from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Tallahassee Community College Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy Driving Range.

Sheriff Campbell will address the students and the media on the driving range at 10:00 a.m., at which time the Florida Sheriff's Association Teen Driver Challenge Statewide Coordinator, Phil Rivers, will present Sheriff Campbell with a new FSA Teen Driver Vehicle. This grant funded vehicle will be used by the Leon County Sheriff's Office while teaching the Teen Driver Challenge. The vehicle will also be used to train other Sheriff's Offices and will be available for them to use while teaching the Teen Driver Challenge in their counties. Sheriff Campbell, Phil Rivers, students and instructors will be available for interviews and to answers any questions the media may have about this exciting opportunity for teen drivers to learn safe driving habits.

Students who successfully complete the course receive a certificate that can be presented to various auto insurance companies for a premium reduction. The course is offered free of charge to any licensed high school student in Leon County. Parents and teen drivers can learn more about the program by talking with their school resource officer or contacting Sgt. Annalise Wierenga (850) 921-3602 or wierenga@leoncountyfl.gov.

More information about this press event or if you need directions, please contact Sgt. Tony Drzewiecki at (850) 528-8427.