

# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



*Larry Campbell, Sheriff*

Leon County Sheriff's Office  
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### LCSO Adds "Seat Belt Convincer" to Teen Driver Challenge

In June of 2008, the Leon County Sheriff's Office implemented the Florida Sheriff's Association Teen Driver Challenge. This innovative program was designed to provide teen drivers with knowledge and hands on experience in order to reduce the chances of being involved in a motor vehicle crash. Studies have shown that up to 30% of teen drivers will be involved in a crash during their first year of driving and that traffic crashes are **THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG TEENS.**

Three summers and 11 challenges later, the Leon County Sheriff's Office has added a training aid known as the Seat Belt Convincer to the program. The "convincer" is an easy-to-use educational tool that allows riders to experience the force of up to five times their body weight (similar to that of a 5-7 mph crash). The "convincer" was developed to educate the public on the benefits of using a seat belt at all times when in a motor vehicle. The equipment was provided through a grant secured by the Florida Sheriff's Association from the Florida Department of Transportation's Safety Office and will be put into action this Friday, August 06, 2010 as part of the summer's final Teen Driver Challenge.

Sheriff Larry Campbell said, "We are going to do everything we can to educate, equip and protect our youth because they are our future. Sheriff's offices all over the state implemented the Teen Driver Challenge into their prevention and resource programs a few years ago. This summer each region added the seat belt convincer to a well organized effort between the Sheriffs and the Florida Sheriff's Association."

Classroom sessions are held at the Leon County Sheriff's Office and practical applications are conducted at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Driving Range. The Teen Driver Challenge is offered to drivers age 16-19 as a defensive driving program. For more information about the Teen Driver Challenge, visit the Leon County Sheriff's Office website at [leoncountytso.com](http://leoncountytso.com) and select the Prevention and Resource Bureau, or call (850) 922-3323.

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