Regional Safe Driver Competitions

It’s that time of year…..dust off the competition hats and get ready for the district safe driver competitions.

Who Can Compete & Requirements: The regional competitions are open to any person who is currently employed or has been employed within the past 12 months as a full-time or substitute school bus driver in the state of Kansas.

Contestants shall meet all Kansas school bus driver qualifications in accordance with K.A.R. 91-38-6. These include: possession of a current and valid Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) with Passenger (P) and School Bus (S) endorsements; documentation of physical qualification (“DOT” physical); documentation for successful completion and current status of an approved accident prevention course (defensive driving) and an approved first aid/CPR program. Drivers currently residing in a state other than Kansas shall present the appropriate CDL documentation with endorsements within their state of residence.

NOTE: Driver qualifications for competition will be checked during the registration process. At no time will a driver be allowed to compete in more than one official district or state competition during the calendar year. You may download the Safety Competition Book and study guide at: http://www.ksde.org or www.kspta.net.

In 2019 there will be two regional level competitions. You may choose to compete in whichever one you want, but you may only compete in ONE. This allows more flexibility in the event you have other obligations one day or the other. The event you choose to participate in is how you will be judged and scored for awards. Again, you may only compete in ONE regional event.

Event organizers would like to know if you are coming and/or receive your registration no later than April 13th, however, you may register the morning of the event.

The second event of the spring will be held on Saturday, May 4. It will be held at Topeka Seaman High School, 4850 NW Rochester Rd., Topeka, KS. Competitor check in will begin at 8:30 a.m. Competition will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the written test followed by the driving competition.

Event organizers would like to know if you are coming and/or receive your registration no later than April 20, however, you may register the morning of the event.

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More information, including the registration form can be found at www.kspta.net or on the School Bus Safety Unit page of www.ksde.org.

Due to circumstances beyond our control please make note of the location change for the April 27 event in Wichita. The registration form lists the location as Northeast Magnet High School in Bel Aire. The location has been changed to Southeast High School, 2641 S. 127th Street, E, Wichita, KS.

Remember, these regional events make great practice in preparation for the state competition in June. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Summer Conference Registration Fees Will Have Slight Increase

Conference attendees will notice a slight increase in the registration fees for the 2019 School Bus Safety Conference. This increase is primarily due to the conference extending to two full days. By adding the value of two days of information and education, the costs of providing the conference have increased. Additional fees incurred by KSPTA include building rental, meals, and speaker expenses. However, we believe that the value far outweighs the small increase.

Conference participants in 2018 indicated on their post-evaluations that they were in favor of extending the conference for two full days.

Registrants will also notice that there is now an early bird fee and a late registration fee. To get the best price, WE MUST RECEIVE your registration BEFORE May 1, 2019. Registration fees are also due at the time of registration. Invoices will no longer be mailed post-conference. This is due to the number of individuals registering, being included in meal counts, then being unable to attend the conference. KSPTA must provide headcounts to meal providers. When the guaranteed number is determined, KSPTA must pay for that number of meals. Conference registration fees will be non-refundable.

In keeping with guidelines set in 2018, anyone attending any conference events/competition must submit a conference registration form and applicable fees. This includes spouses/companions. Conference ID's will be issued at check-in and these badges will be your admission ticket into all conference events.

Don’t Delay
To receive the early bird discount, we must receive your registration by May 1st.

KSPTA Executive Board News

In June of 2018, we asked you to vote on tabling elections of KSPTA officers so we could continue work on reorganizing the Association.

We are pleased to report that this work is nearly complete. In addition to changing the KSPTA conference format, we have spent extensive time reviewing the By-Laws and Constitution. The changes will be made available very soon for your review. We will ask you to approve both documents as presented during the KSPTA business meeting at the School Bus Safety Conference in June. If you have questions about any of the changes please contact your regional representative or email us at kspta1970@gmail.com. We’ll do our best to answer your question.

We are also very excited about the new conference format and hope that you will like the changes as well. A special conference edition of this newsletter will come out in May with all the conference details.
The Hilton Garden Inn at Salina has been selected as our “official” conference hotel for the 2019 School Bus Safety Conference.

Located just off I-135 on the South side of Salina, the Hilton is just 6 miles from Tony’s Event Center. It offers fantastic patio seating areas comfortable enough for groups to socialize in addition to indoor seating areas.

It is NOT required that you use the HGI for your hotel accommodations. You are welcome to research some of the many other hotels in the Salina area and make another selection based on your school district’s training budget.

40 rooms have been blocked for our group at the rate of $109.00 (plus applicable taxes) however this rate DOES NOT include breakfast. Breakfast will be provided at the conference (as part of your conference registration fees) on Wednesday and Thursday only.

Reservations can be made by logging on to our website at Hilton.com/SLNTC and entering the block code of KPTA1 or by calling the hotel at 785-309-0440 and asking for the group rate by name KS Pupil Transportation Association CODE KPTA1.

All reservations must be made by May 3, 2019.

After this date, our room block will be released. Additional reservation requests will be honored on a space and rate available basis.

Arrangements have been made for each individual to pay for their room, tax, and incidental charges. If your school district has tax exempt status, proper documentation must be provided at time of reservation. Rooms can be guaranteed for late arrival to an individual’s credit card or by advance deposit. A guaranteed room reservation assures a room for your attendees regardless of their arrival time. Any guaranteed reservations not canceled 24 hours before arrival date will be billed to the credit card or against the advance deposit.

The Hilton Garden Inn is a smoke free facility. This includes sleeping rooms, function rooms, bar area, hallways, restrooms and anywhere inside the hotel.

Kansas Boasts Another National Winner

Congratulations Austin S. a student at USD 223 at Barnes Hanover Linn for placing 3rd in the national school bus safety poster contest. Austin placed 1st in his division at the State level which advanced him to the national competition. The national competition was held in conjunction of the National Association of Pupil Transportation Conference held in Kansas City in late October.

This is the second consecutive year a Kansas student has placed in the national competition.
2019 School Bus Safety Poster Contest
Theme: Red Lights Mean STOP!

Who may enter:
Any student enrolled in a Kansas public, parochial or other private elementary or middle school (plus high school for Divisions 4 and 5 only) may enter. Any Kansas student who is a member of a US military family stationed overseas may submit artwork to the Kansas School Bus Safety Poster Contest.

How Many Posters May Each School Submit:
A school may submit a maximum of five posters per classroom.

Poster specifications:
Completed poster size must be 11” X 17” or 12” X 18”
Posters may be illustrated on the vertical or horizontal axis

The official entry form must be securely fastened to the back of the poster. Please print clearly

DO NOT roll or fold posters. They must be mailed/delivered flat. DO NOT place name, school, etc. on the front of the poster

Designs should be submitted on quality tag, poster board or heavy paper

Lamination is not permitted and will disqualify the poster

Cut paper/stencils (freehand or pre-drawn stencils) are not permitted and will disqualify the poster

There is no limitation on the use and number of colors

There is no limitation on the type of media—such as print, crayon, felt pen, etc. used on the poster design; however, wood place, glass or metal should not be part of the poster. Collage materials should not be used. Glued on pieces will eliminate the poster.

Poster designs may not incorporate any copyrighted characters (i.e., comic and/or television characters), photographs, and magazine or newspaper illustrations.

More information including the official entry form may be found on our website (www.kspta.net) under the “upcoming events” tab.

Poster Theme: Red Lights Mean STOP!
Every poster and slogan must harmonize with the 2019 poster contest theme: Red Lights Mean STOP!

Contestants must illustrate the above theme only and the theme must be written exactly as shown above on the poster. This includes ALL punctuation, including the exclamation mark

If the theme Red Lights Mean STOP! is not written exactly as show, it will be disqualified

Drawings must be original, correct in safety concept and the exclusive work of the student entering the contest in idea, design and execution. All artwork should be positive in approach, demonstrating only proper school bus safety behaviors.

At least a part of a yellow school bus must be present in the poster

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE (www.kspta.net) FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF CONTEST RULES.
2019 Distinguished Service Award

Members of the KSPTA Awards Committee are seeking assistance to find Kansas school transportation personnel who are deserving of special recognition for their actions/efforts in providing safe transportation of students.

**Qualifications:**

Must be a school transportation employee employed with a school district or contractor in the State of Kansas

Has met all requirements of a school transportation employee (current Driver Improvement certification, First-Aid/CPR, current physical, random drug/alcohol participant, safety meetings).

(Please Print)

Name of Nominee:

USD # or Contractor Name:

Nominee's Position: Years of Service:

Name/Position of Person Submitting Nomination:

Reason the nominee qualifies for special recognition:

Feel free to use a separate sheet of paper if necessary but nomination must include all of the above information. Attach newspaper clippings, other articles or photos if available. The Kansas State Pupil Transportation Association must receive all nominations no later than May 1, 2019. All nominations should be sent electronically to kspta1970@gmail.com. Nominations forms may also be found on our website at www.kspta.net

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2019 Heroism Award

**Qualifications:**

Must be a school transportation employee employed with a school district or contractor in the State of Kansas

Has met all requirements of a school transportation employee (current Driver Improvement certification, First-Aid/CPR, physical, random drug/alcohol participant, safety meetings).

Heroic act was performed during the 2018-19 school year

(Please Print)

Name of Nominee:

USD # or Contractor Name:

Nominee’s Position Years of Service:

Name/Position of Person Submitting Nomination:

Detailed Account of Incident (location, time, weather conditions, etc.):

Feel free to use a separate sheet of paper if necessary but nomination must include all of the above information. Attach newspaper clippings, other articles or photos if available. The Kansas State Pupil Transportation Association must receive all nominations no later than May 1, 2019. All nominations should be sent electronically to kspta1970@gmail.com. Nominations forms may also be found on our website at www.kspta.net
What’s New with KSDE School Bus Safety

Our partners in the School Bus Safety Unit at the Kansas Department of Education wish to remind our members of some very important upcoming events:

**Mechanic Workshop—March 27**

This workshop is a five-hour informational workshop for any mechanic performing the Part I Mechanical School/Activity Bus Safety Inspection. This workshop is designed to provide information to assist mechanics who perform this inspection, which is required by Kansas State Department of Education School Bus Regulations. Class instructors will be Kansas Highway Patrol's Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program personnel. This workshop has been offered in the past; however, we are continually updating and improving it. If you have attended the workshop in the past, you may want to consider attending again.

Lunch will be provided and is included in the $15 registration fee.

**Stop Arm Collection Day—April 17**

Be sure to take accurate counts of motorists who violate the stop arm law and report your data to the school bus safety unit. More information will be sent directly to districts as this date approaches.

**Wheelchair Securement—May 7-9**

Taught by Trisha Nolen, Southern Regional Manager, Q'Straint. This training is for School Bus Trainers employed by Kansas School Districts or Kansas School Transportation Contractors. There is no cost to attend this workshop. The workshop is approximately 3 hours in length and will be held in 3 locations across Kansas, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**Train The Trainer for School Bus Drivers—June 24-27**

This “Train the Trainer Course” is designed as an entry level course for new driver trainers. The course curriculum will provide training in both classroom and behind the wheel demonstrations.

It will be held at the Washburn Institute of Technology, 5724 SW Huntoon Street, Room AE-156 Topeka.

Cost is $225 and does not include meals/lodging. Class size is limited to 20.

For more information and to register for any of the workshops, please visit the school bus safety unit page at www.ksde.org. Pre-registration is required for these offerings.

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**Spotlight on Kansas Central Bus Topeka, KS**

Right: Even future bus drivers are required to attend safety meetings. Aiden Shorter is the son of Rikayla Shorter.

Left: Greg LaForge is having a very important phone conversation with the boss.