

Teen Driving Safety During “The 100 Deadliest Days of Summer”

The dangers of summertime driving are more deceptive compared to wintertime. Not only is there an influx of travelers headed to their vacation destinations, school is out of session too. When school is out, more teen drivers hit the road. Unfortunately for teen drivers, their limited driving experience and ability to become easily distracted makes them more vulnerable than any other age group on the road. Data indicates that from Memorial Day in May to Labor Day in September there is an increase in crashes involving teenagers, which is why this period is referred to as the “100 Deadliest Days of Summer.” According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), “over the past five years, nearly 3,500 people have been killed in crashes involving teen drivers during the 100 Deadliest Days.”

As teens are more likely to be involved in a car crash, it is important to educate young drivers about the risks and responsibilities behind the wheel. Wayne Shelton and Robert Clarke, SJTPO’s Traffic Safety Specialists, advocate for teens and their parents to participate in Share the Keys, a program



SJTPO distributes information to teens and parents at Share the Keys event.

adopted by NJM Insurance Group and presented by Mr. Shelton and Mr. Clarke. As stated in the Share the Keys Resource Guide, “[Share the Keys] is a researched-based, data-driven orientation program designed to reduce teen driver crash risks through increased parental involvement.”

Of course, all drivers could use a refresher on driver safety, not just teens. SJTPO offers an extensive array of safety education courses for drivers of all ages and abilities, with the latest addition being Defensive Driving. To learn more, or to request a program, visit SJTPO’s Traffic Safety Education webpage at www.sjtpo.org.

