

AFTER ACTION REPORT

2015 Safety Town

The following report summarizes preparation, delivery and follow-up for Eugene Safety Town 2015, our 11th offering of Safety Town in the past 12 years. Safety Town was not held in 2012.

Safety Town is a two week comprehensive educational program that introduces preschool 5-year old children to safety awareness. This exceptional program teaches children entering kindergarten in the fall, basic safety awareness and accident prevention through hands-on learning activities. The life-saving lessons covering topics such as pedestrian, bicycle, school bus, poison, basic fire, gun, home and water safety are presented in age appropriate fashion through instruction, song and hands-on activities. A certified school teacher provides most of the instruction and is supplemented by community experts and police department staff. Two camps are held concurrently, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We can accommodate 64 children for each camp, serving 128 overall.

Staff: Debbie Janecek – Assistant Camp Director, camper lead, administration
Harlow Meno – Assistant Camp Director, teen lead, instructor
Renee Tobler – Camp Officer, town lead, instructor
Ryan Wolgamott – Camp Officer, town lead, instructor

Staff EPD VIP Volunteers: Pam Ehlers (all year) – Camp Assistant
Greg Zahar – Camp Assistant
Willard Grabofsky – Camp Assistant
Claudia Carlson – Camp Assistant
Lieke Dircks – Photographer/Videographer

Safety Town Teacher: Mrs. Lori Barrong (third year)

Safety Town Teens: 26 area youth (aged 13-19)

Safety Town Guest Instructors: Ted Carlson, EPD/Animal Welfare Officer, Wendy McCoy, Lynn Schilling and “Boss”, Gary Cardwell of First Student Bus Company, Sgt Marsh and Officer’s Scott Dillon and Doug Ledbetter, Eugene-Springfield Fire, Amy Linder of Eugene/Springfield Fire and City of Eugene Emergency Management.

Financial Report: See attached.

Location: This was the third year that Safety Town took place at the Eugene Christian School. Eugene Christian School provides their location free of charge, which allows us to keep the costs down for camp. Feedback from parents at past camps that were hosted at Bethel area schools was that the location was too far west. We’ve encountered difficulties in the past with hosting the camp at other 4j locations. The camp requires one gym, one cafeteria, three classrooms, an outside playground area and nearby pedestrian street crossing. With all of our requirements, we’ve had challenges with public schools due to their other

commitments with summer school, other sports/faith users of the school, and their summertime custodial schedule. The partnership with Eugene Christian School has been favorable for a variety of reasons: Ease with getting on their calendar early, contains all the facility requirements needed, is close to bus routes (for our volunteer teens) and freeway for easy access by parents. It's near Costco and other shopping areas so that parents have something to do while their children are in camp (2-1/2 hours). Our goal of providing childcare or access to childcare has not been realized and would add an additional layer of planning that we are not willing to take on at this time.

Preparation: Preparation for camp began almost immediately after the previous camp. EPD VIP Volunteer Pam Ehlers works on camp preparation year-round. Pam inventories equipment and supplies and provides staff with needs for the following year. Pam further prepares all take-home materials for camp. Take home materials include daily information and resources for parents so they understand the topics and can learn more and continue the instruction at home. Pam prepares all craft materials for camp, oftentimes taking projects home to work on. Pam performs most data-entry into the camper database.

James Hadley was very instrumental this year with cleaning up, simplifying and enhancing the Safety Town Excel database. His work on this streamlined our efforts and provided us with helpful forms and documents for camp.

Several volunteer work parties took place just before camp. EPD VIP volunteers assisted Pam with bagging snacks and creating staff and teen notebooks.

Staff (Debbie & Harlow) secure the location for the coming year and sign the appropriate contract, secure the teacher and contract, solicit donations and resources, order supplies and equipment, recruit campers and teens, secure other EPD resources, staff and volunteers, schedule community expert instructors, and schedule school bus, moving van, and other resources.

Camper Recruitment: Camper recruitment began on March 2. Safety Town is very popular, so recruitment is limited to; press release and corresponding media that results, website update with information and applications, social media posts and inclusion in our weekly media opportunities with KUGN radio and KEZI television. Camp reached full capacity in record time on April 29. A waitlist was established and subsequently, everyone on the waitlist was either offered a spot, or was able to attend camp this year. The waitlist entailed submitting application and payment. Many inquiries were referred to Springfield Safety Town as well.

Because we know that all who want to attend Safety Town will not be able to, we created a document of resources which has been placed on our website. This document helps parents get started with Safety Town subjects at home.

This was the second year that we created a tier system for city vs non-city residents. The cost for camp for city residents was \$40. Cost for non-city residents was \$50. This is similar to that of other city recreation programs. This year, we had 22 campers who were non-city residents, a total of just over 13%. Further, we offered scholarships of \$20 to city residents only who requested them. All 5 scholarship requests were honored. We offered families the opportunity to donate scholarship funds with their camper registration fees. This year, \$230 in scholarship funds were donated by camper families.

Teen Recruitment: Recruitment for teen volunteers began on March 2. The same outreach for teens was utilized as that for campers. Additionally, contact with previous volunteers, department staff, and area schools took place. We received over 30 applications for teen volunteers. Of that, 11 were returning, giving us a good base of experience. Interviews with all new teens were conducted and all offered a position. Because summertime is very busy for some teens with many extracurricular and sports commitments, 14 new teens accepted a position. Additionally, Officer Wolgamott recruited his son, who joined us after recruitment. We had a total of 26 teen volunteers.

The model for Safety Town is different than for other city recreation activities in that we utilize a small army of teen volunteers to manage small groups of children and guide them through camp. Our goal is three teens (at least one experienced returning) to every 8 children. We had several groups that had 4 teens. This is a good way to utilize some of the youngest teens as they gain confidence and experience. Our hope is that they will return for subsequent camps. Teen volunteers donate nearly 80 hours to Safety Town, which is a great way for them to earn community service hours required at most high schools. Teens also earn valuable “work” experience, and a letter to add to their job and/or college portfolios.

Moving Day, Town Set-up, and Staff Meeting & Teen Training: On the Thursday before camp, we secure a donated moving van and an army of staff and EPD VIP Volunteers and we move all of our boxes and town equipment from police headquarters to the school. Once at the school, set-up commences, unloading all boxes and equipment, set-up of camper pods, classrooms and kitchen. The Friday morning before camp consists of an all staff meeting where we go over responsibilities, the schedule in detail, and receive epi pen training. The Friday afternoon before camp consists of teen training where teens are provided with notebooks, their schedules, their camper names and information, a tour of the facility and overview of our expectations. An additional component of set-up takes place the Sunday before camp. Again, utilizing a contingent of EPD VIP volunteers, staff set-up the town by lying down and taping the town mat and placing the houses, pedal cars, stop signs and traffic signal in place. This takes place on Sunday as we share the gym area with the church co-joined with the school, so this set-up occurs after their service.

Camp: Safety Town took place July 13-July 24. Additional EPD VIP volunteers assisted us with check-in on the first day and with graduation on the last day. EPD VIP Safety Town staff assisted every day at camp, including our camp photographer. For camp schedule, please see attachment. Chief Kerns was present for both the opening ceremony and for both graduation ceremonies. This year we were extremely fortunate to have School Resource Officer Renee Tobler present for her third year at Safety Town. School Resource Officer Ryan Wolgamott was new this year, replacing Officer Savage, and he was a tremendous asset as well. Our hope is that School Resource Officers will continue to assist with Safety Town for subsequent camps.

The PIO's office assisted with press releases at different points throughout camp. Several news media outlets came by for interviews, and the Register-Guard took photographs with a photo appearing in their paper.

Of particular note, on the first Friday of camp, Officer Tobler instructed a segment on parked car and parking lot safety. This was especially poignant as that weekend, a child was struck and killed while in a parking lot in Junction City.

Parent evaluations of camp were extremely favorable. A summary report will be forthcoming.

All town equipment remains in good shape and is not in need of replacement. Safety Town houses could use a new coat of paint which we can take care of next spring.

On the last day of camp after graduation, we had a teen party where we thanked them for their participation. Camp cannot take place without teen volunteers and this year's success was due in part to the great caliber of teens we had.

Our teacher, Mrs. Lori Barrong, continues to be an asset to Safety Town. Her experience as a working teacher, and her experience with Safety Town (third year), are invaluable and is also why Safety Town was a success this year.

Donors: Safety Town Donors for camp this year were: Allstate Insurance, AAA of Oregon, Bi-Mart, Eugene Christian School, Greg & Georgia Zahar, First Baptist Church of Eugene, Little Caesar's Pizza, In memory of David & Emily Wilsey, and many Safety Town families.

Donations: This year, the Emerald Bridge Club made a donation that helped cover most of the cost of teen and staff lunches. Further, Bruns Apple Market provided a steep discount on food donations for teen and staff lunches. Little Cesar's Pizza donated teen and staff lunches for two days of camp. On the last day of camp, a returning family made a donation of \$1000. This year, we were able to provide teen and staff lunches every day at camp.

Camp Follow-up and next year's preparation: Thank you letters were sent to all community expert instructors, and to donors and supporters. Letters documenting teen participation and hours were sent to teen volunteers. We are in good shape financially to begin preparations for next year's camp, which are already underway. Another successful year of Safety Town is complete.

Watch the camp videos here:

Session 1/am: <https://youtu.be/BIjGAgIAyYo>

Session 2/pm: https://youtu.be/5r_KnceRQ9w

Attachments:

Safety Town Financial Report

Safety Town Daily Schedule

Safety Town Volunteer List

A/Supervisor Debbie Janecek

08/21/15