



# Drive for Success

A program from GRPD and Boys and Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids



# Purpose of the Drive for Success Program



- Provide access to driver's training that removes cost as a barrier
- Improve road safety and crash avoidance skills for young drivers
- Decrease incidents of driver's license-related citations/arrests involving young people
- Accidents and citations increase insurance rates for individuals, making it that much harder to get/maintain required insurance
- Increase opportunities for mentoring and building relationships with youth and the community
- Align with the goals of the GRPD Strategic Plan



# Accident Data for Young Drivers—Grand Rapids

## 2017: 8,507 total auto accidents

15-year-old driver 12 Total (0.1%) 9 no injury 3 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal	17-year-old driver 189 Total (2.2%) 154 no injury 35 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal
16-year-old driver 128 total (1.5%) 104 no injury 24 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal	18-20-year-old drivers <b>1,166 Total (13.7%)</b> 942 no injury 223 injury (non-fatal) 1 fatal

## 2018: 8,559 total auto accidents

15-year-old driver 11 Total (0.1%) 9 no injury 2 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal	17-year-old driver 211 Total (2.4%) 174 no injury 37 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal
16-year-old driver 108 total (1.2%) 93 no injury 15 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal	18-20-year-old drivers <b>1,112 Total (13.0%)</b> 906 no injury 205 injury (non-fatal) 1 fatal

## 2019: 8,936 total auto accidents

15-year-old driver 14 Total (0.1%) 10 no injury 4 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal	17-year-old driver 190 Total (2.1%) 158 no injury 32 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal
16-year-old driver 119 total (1.3%) 94 no injury 25 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal	18-20-year-old drivers <b>1,091 Total (12.2%)</b> 920 no injury 171 injury (non-fatal) 0 fatal

- Young people who wait until they are 18 to get a driver’s license without any formal training are significantly more likely to be involved in an auto accident
- 90% of all accidents are a result of driver error
- 50% of all fatal accidents are a single vehicle accident

\*Source of auto accident data: [michigantrafficcrashfacts.org](http://michigantrafficcrashfacts.org)



# BGCGR Role—Participant Eligibility & Facilities



- Be an active BGC member prior to beginning the program
- Recommended by their respective BGC's Director
- Actively participate in service to their respective BGC
- Be at least 14 years 8 months old
- Have no negative driving history as shown through SOS/LEIN search conducted by GRPD officers
- Must sign a behavior/code of conduct contract
- Must have parent/guardian approval
- Must have access to a vehicle and licensed adult to log the required supervised driving hours



# GRPD Officers' Role—Mentoring and Support



- Provide supplemental classroom training on traffic stop procedures
- Be available to program attendees to facilitate a successful learning experience
- Build relationships with attendees and their families to ensure a successful outcome for the attendee
- Build trust within the community
- Promote the program and seek additional sponsorships to grow capacity



# Century Driving Group Role—Instruction



- Deliver state-approved driver's training courses at the BGC centers, after school from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Monday - Thursday
- Provide the state-certified curriculum and vehicles to facilitate a successful learning experience
- Proctor student's written testing
- Certify participants have met the training requirements to obtain a Level 1 and Level 2 Michigan driver's license



# Program Funding



- **Century Driving Group**

Donated \$8,000 from their employee-funded non-profit organization for the pilot program

- **The SAFE Task Force**

Provided \$10,000 to fund additional costs related to instructor-provided driving hours and help grow the program in its second session

- **Other Sponsorships are available using a tiered system**

Platinum–Sponsor one attendee at \$1,000

Gold–Sponsor half the cost at \$500 and co-sponsor with another organization

Silver–Sponsor  $\frac{1}{4}$  the cost at \$250 and co-sponsor with other organizations

Bronze–Donate any amount of money to fund the account for future attendees



# Pilot Session—Spring 2021



- Segment 1 ran from 4/12/2021 – 5/14/2021
- Started with 6 participants
- 5 participants completed Segment 1—one voluntarily withdrew
- Century Driving Group is working with a participant who had moved out of the area during the summer break. Once this participant completes their 30 hours of driving, Segment 2 will be scheduled for all the participants of the pilot program so they can all advance together. CDG hopes to have all pilot participants fully licensed by the end of the year.



- Classroom portion ran from 10/11/2021 – 11/18/2021
- Started with 17 participants and all 17 passed the written portion of the class
- Students are currently finishing up their scheduled drives and observations with the driver's education instructors
- All participants are now working to log the 30 supervised-driving hours needed to complete Segment 1



- ['Drive For Success' allows eligible students to enroll in free driver's ed course](#)
- [First round of students in 'Drive for Success' program get driver's permits](#)
- [GRPD officer behind 'Drive for Success' program finalist in international policing award](#)
- [GRPD-Boys & Girls Club's Drive For Success Equals Success](#)
- [Grand Rapids police officer finalist for national award for innovative program helping teens get driver's licenses](#)
- [Boys & Girls Club, Grand Rapids Police partner to run free drivers training classes](#)

GRPD Officer Derrick Learned was recognized by the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan (CPAM) as the Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year for his work with the Boys & Girls Club and the creation of the Drive for Success program





# Drive for Success



It's about so much more than helping a young person get a driver's license...

