



Outdoor Education Initiative Workshop
May 8, 2026

DAVE PARKER,
DIVISION HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS, ARDOT





OVERVIEW

- Free, statewide road safety education program – first of its kind in Arkansas
- Road safety for pedestrians, passengers, bicyclists, and drivers
- 6-8th grade
- 9-12th grade coming soon
- Worksheets, quizzes, interactive web games, videos

Scan the QR code to view or request materials



STREET
SMART.

THE DATA



UNSAFE DRIVING PRACTICES



NOT WEARING
A SEAT BELT

Nationally,
53% of teenage
drivers who die
in crashes are
unbuckled²



IMPAIRED
DRIVING

Nationally,
24% of drivers
(ages 15 - 18)
involved in
a fatal crash
had been
drinking¹



DISTRACTED
DRIVING

Teenage drivers
are **23 TIMES**
more likely to
be involved in a
crash when they
are **texting**²



SPEEDING &
AGGRESSIVE
DRIVING

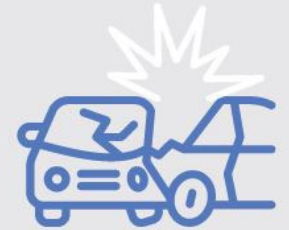
In Arkansas,
23% of traffic
fatalities and
19% of serious
injuries involve
speeding or
aggressive
driving¹

¹ 2022-2027 Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)
² <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving>, 2023 data

TOP YOUNGER DRIVER STRATEGIES

- ✓ INCREASE AWARENESS of Arkansas' Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Law.
- ✓ INCREASE AWARENESS OF RISKS to younger drivers amongst teens, college age students, parents, and community members.
- ✓ REVISE OR ADD ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION for younger drivers.

For a complete list of strategies and action steps, please see *Younger Driver Action Plan* (in the Appendix).



CRASHES

IN ARKANSAS
BETWEEN 2016 - 2020

13%
OF ALL
FATALITIES¹

— AND —
18%
OF ALL
SERIOUS INJURIES¹

INVOLVED
YOUNGER DRIVERS
(24 YEARS OR YOUNGER)



THE SOLUTION

KEEP GEORGIA SAFE



 A FREE K-12 CAR AND ROAD
SAFETY PROGRAM FROM GDOT





THE PROGRAM



VIDEOS & GAMES



LESSONS & QUIZZES



ACTIVITIES & CONTESTS



STREETSMARTAR.ORG



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

LESSON 7.3 VEHICLE BLIND SPOT SIMULATOR

This activity will help you understand what vehicle blind spots are and where they exist by exploring how mirrors work and where they fall short. You will need painter's tape and three handheld mirrors.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Get into groups of five.
2. Use painter's tape to mark a rectangle on the floor as your "car." Place a chair where the driver's seat would be.
3. One student will sit in the chair as the driver.
4. Two students will hold side mirrors on either side of the car. Use furniture if needed to help hold them steady.
5. One student will act as the rearview mirror, holding the mirror just in front of the driver in the center of the "car" where the rearview mirror would hang.
6. The driver may "adjust" mirrors by asking students to move them until they can see clearly.
7. The fifth student will move a small object around the "vehicle."
8. The driver observes whether they can see the object directly or in any mirror.
9. If the object disappears from view, that location is a blind spot.
10. Rotate roles until everyone has been the driver, then answer the questions below.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW

1. Where were the blind spots located around the "driver?"
2. What causes blind spots in vehicles?
3. As a future driver, how could you check these areas in a real car?
4. Why are blind spots dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists?
5. As a pedestrian or cyclist, how can you protect yourself around vehicles?





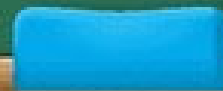
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

- Introducing program to 6-8th graders
- ARDOT visiting schools statewide
- Educator engagement and feedback

2026 AND BEYOND

- Content revisions
- 9-12th grade program
- K-5 program
- Fully built out program in every school statewide

Are you smarter
than an 8th
grader?



Hand Signals 101



LEFT TURN

Left arm out
to the side



RIGHT TURN

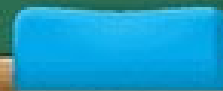
Right arm straight out
OR left arm bent up



STOP

Left arm bent down
with hand flat

Are you smarter
than an 8th
grader?





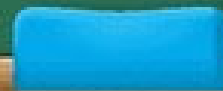
Stay Seated, Stay Safe

Most school buses don't have seatbelts — but they're still designed to protect you.

The seats form a safety structure called compartmentalization, similar to how an egg carton protects eggs.

Seatbelts should
always be worn
when available!

Are you smarter
than an 8th
grader?



The DANGER ZONE

The "Danger Zone" is
the 10-foot area around
the bus where the driver
can't always see you.



DANGER
ZONE

10 feet

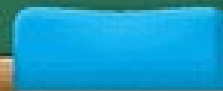


10
feet

10 feet

WALKING AREA

Are you smarter
than an 8th
grader?





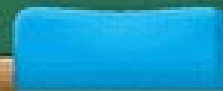
Walk on the **LEFT SIDE** of the road, against the flow of traffic so you can see cars coming.

Wear **BRIGHT OR REFLECTIVE** gear.

Be **EXTRA** careful near curves, hills and driveways.

Step **OFF THE ROAD** when needed to give space.

Are you smarter
than an 8th
grader?





Work Zones

Road construction and maintenance crews keep our roads safe, so we should protect them when we drive.

- **WATCH FOR WORK ZONES.** Signs marking them are typically diamond-shaped and orange with black letters or symbols. A work zone sign warns a driver that workers may be alongside or on the roadway.



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