

Michigan Sheriffs' Association



Press Release



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STOPPED, a teen driver safety program developed by the Michigan Sheriff's Association (MSA), gets continued funding from State Farm

With over 30,000 new teen drivers hitting the roadways every year, the STOPPED program continues to make an impact on teen driver safety. The program, which stands for Sheriffs' Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers, serves as both a deterrent for risky driving behaviors and a communication channel for parents and their teen drivers.

The program works by parents/teens signing up – they then get a decal to place in the windshield of their car. If the teen driver is pulled over, the law enforcement officer communicates, through the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, back to the parents. The parents are notified of the time and location of the stop, the driver's name and number of passengers in the vehicle, the reason for the stop and whether any citations were issued. This gives the parent the opportunity to have a conversation with their child about safe driving behaviors.

"It's almost like having the parent in the car still," says MSA Executive Director Blaine Koops. "Teens drive more cautiously when they have their parents in the vehicle with them. Having the STOPPED decal on the windshield is a constant reminder to teens that they should ALWAYS drive as cautiously as they do when their parents are in the car."

State Farm has funded the program since 2010, providing over \$250,000 towards the effort. This year State Farm granted MSA almost \$10,000 in continued support.

With over 47,000 vehicles registered in the program since 2008, only 100 letters have been sent home to parents, which suggests the deterrent factor of the decal. In the history of the program, there have been no reports of a registered having a fatality or crash.

Featured accepting the check on behalf of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association is Eaton County Sheriff Tom Reich from State Farm Sales Leader Zach Sabin. Also featured is Senator John Proos, Representative Mary Whiteford, Executive Director of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association Blaine Koops and several State Farm agents.

