

What Safety Means to Teen Driving

As the youngest of three brothers in my family, I have watched as each of my brothers has learned and mastered the ability to drive. My parents were very anxious each time when came for them to get their learners permit. My mother felt very strongly that since we were all going to be the primary driver in our future families that we should receive proper instruction. Safety, of course, was instilled and practiced.

According to the Ohio Teen Driver Coalition, two out of five deaths in the United States are the result of a car crash. Today, with the addition of Ipods and cell phones, teens are trying to do too many things in addition to driving. As a new driver, I feel that laws should be implemented to restrict teens from using these devices while behind the wheel. I also agree with the recent legislation that allows a limited number of occupants in an under 17 year old driver's car. Often times, I think the student driver will succumb to peer pressure if he/she is observing posted speed limits. Many teens will spend many hours practicing a sport or hobby and will do it until they get it right yet the state only requires 50 hours of driving training. I personally know many friends who have received speeding tickets and have lost their licenses because of accidents. I hope not to become one of those statistics.

With over 6,700 teen drivers killed in automobile accidents in 2002, it seems to me that we need to improve our approach to driver education in the state of Ohio. I know for a fact that DriveTeam requires twice as many hours as the state does and I think that is definitely a step in the right direction.

I am very fortunate that my parent's researched all the possible driver instruction education and decided that DriveTeam had the most comprehensive program. The weekend course combined with classroom and in-car training helped my brothers to each pass their driving exam on the first try. My mother is very proud of the fact that neither brother has EVER had a speeding ticket or been involved in an accident. I know that there is more of a financial burden to attend this program and feel it is money well spent to help prepare young drivers to drive safely and I believe that each of us has a responsibility to become that safest driver that we can be. I think that means comprehensive education combined with many hours of supervised practice. Teens need to start out understanding that driving is a privilege that we cannot take lightly. We must make sure to remove distractions until we feel more secure in our abilities. Most importantly young drivers have to pay special attention, and treat driving with the respect it deserves.

Winning essays

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