

FCCLA's Rural Teen Roadway Safety Assessment (RSA) program, made possible with support from the Ford Motor Company Fund, has several objectives aimed at improving road safety and raising awareness of transportation issues in rural communities.

The primary objectives of this program includes:

- 1 TEEN-FOCUSED SAFETY ASSESSMENT**
Empower teenagers to assess and address road safety concerns that directly impact their lives, especially in rural areas.
- 2 TEEN-LED EDUCATION**
Provide opportunities for youth to become informed about road safety, responsible driving and pedestrian behaviors, and the significance of adhering to traffic rules.
- 3 TEEN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
Engage teens as active participants in their communities to foster partnerships between peers, local law enforcement, school officials, community members, and government officials while collectively working toward safer roadways for teens in rural areas.
- 4 YOUTH-DRIVEN DATA COLLECTION**
Encourage teens to collect data related to teenage traffic behaviors, pedestrian safety, and other pertinent factors in rural settings, emphasizing issues that affect their demographic.
- 5 TEEN ADVOCACY FOR ROAD SAFETY**
Inspire teens to advocate for improvements in road safety based on their RSA findings, leading initiatives for change and progress within their peer group.
- 6 RECOGNITION AND AWARDS FOR TEENS**
Offer recognition and incentives for teen involvement in RSA projects, including opportunities to win cash prizes and awards, such as the FACTS National Program Award and RSA program cash prizes.
- 7 PEER-TO-PEER AWARENESS**
Raise awareness about road safety issues specifically among teens, fostering discussions within schools, clubs, and communities to share knowledge and concerns.
- 8 YOUTH-DRIVEN IMPROVEMENT**
Encourage teens to critically evaluate the RSA process, learn from the experience, and build on their road safety education, making it an annual endeavor.
- 9 TEEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
Actively involve teens in community conversations about road safety and seek their input and feedback, underscoring their role in safeguarding their community's roadways.
- 10 TEEN EMPOWERMENT**
Empower teens to take a leading role in addressing road safety issues that affect their age group, instilling a sense of responsibility and leadership within their peer network.

These objectives are designed to empower and engage teenagers in the RSA program, enabling them to play a central role in improving road safety within their communities and addressing issues that affect their demographic specifically.

1 WHAT IS A RURAL TEEN ROAD SAFETY ASSESSMENT (RSA)?

A Rural Teen Road Safety Assessment (RSA) is a safety checkup for roads and intersections, conducted by a team of youth and invited community members who take an interest in making roadways safer. They look at the roads we use daily to see if they are safe for teens and everyone else. If they find any safety issues, they take note and advocate for change.

The engaging part is that FCCLA members can collaborate with local government and community members to do these safety checkups.

The Rural Teen RSA team tries to answer questions like these:

- Which parts of the road might be risky for the youth and others?
- Is there a specific time of day when it could be more dangerous?
- What can you do to make these risky spots safer?

Plan to conduct a Rural Teen RSA to bring awareness to infrastructure safety and educate peers and community members when you focus on a specific area that you or your peers drive/walk every day. It's all about ensuring everyone can get around safely and have fun doing it!

2 GETTING STARTED AND RECRUITING A TEAM

To kickstart your journey, start by diving into the toolkit to gain a clear understanding of the RSA program's goals. Once you have reviewed the toolkit, it's time to recruit your team! Your RSA team should be a diverse group of people who can provide valuable perspectives and expertise for a successful project.

Possible team members could include:

- FCCLA Adviser and Chapter Members
- Local Law Enforcement
- School Administrator
- Ford Dealership Representatives
- Community Members
- School Transportation Official
- Parents



3 SELECT A LOCATION

Once your team has been assembled, determine your assessment location. The assessment location could be an intersection near your school or within your community. Take into consideration the following as you select the location:

- Are there safety problems at the intersection?
- Is there a line of cars dropping off students in the morning at your school?
- Are there a lot of pedestrians crossing at the intersection?
- Are there no pedestrian signals?
- Are there challenging areas where students/community members have to walk or ride their bikes?

4 COORDINATION AND RESEARCH

Hold a meeting with your RSA team(s):

Gather your RSA team(s) for an informative meeting. Ideally, each team should consist of 4-6 students. If you have multiple teams, consider stationing them at different corners and rotating their positions during the RSA. During the meeting, explain the purpose of the RSA, assign specific roles and responsibilities to each team member, and distribute the FCCLA Rural Teen RSA Assessment Checklist. Remind each team that this is a safety assessment.

Data Collection Preparation:

Delegate a team member to research the chosen intersection, looking for crash data and safety concerns. Utilize Google Maps to examine the intersection, including adjacent cross streets. For a more detailed overview, consider using Google Earth to access aerial images and "street view" pictures to aid in mapping out your RSA.

If possible, reach out to your local police department to inquire about borrowing a speed gun. It's even better if they can actively participate in the RSA alongside your team.

Promotion and Awareness:

Boost the visibility of your RSA by reaching out to local media outlets and your school news network. Inform them about the upcoming assessment and utilize the provided sample press release to effectively communicate the event's significance. Encourage media attendance to enhance community awareness and involvement in the initiative.

5 CONDUCT THE RSA

Safety Precautions:

Emphasize safety for all team members. Encourage wearing brightly colored safety vests and closed-toe shoes during the RSA. Safety should be the top priority.

Data Collection Tools:

Equip each team with essential tools, including clipboards, pencils, copies of the Rural Teen RSA Checklist, a camera, and safety vests (which can be borrowed from the school's safety patrol if available).

Conducting the Assessment:

Encourage teams to conduct the RSA at least two times, under different conditions (e.g., different times of day or varying weather and traffic patterns).

Stress the importance of thorough data collection, as this information will provide a comprehensive view of the safety conditions at the intersection.



6

REPORT AND SHARE YOUR RSA RESULTS

Team Discussion and Ideas:

After the RSA, convene your team(s) to discuss observations and insights and combine data collected during the RSA. Encourage brainstorming of ideas to improve the safety of the assessed intersection. These ideas and data collected will be included in the assessment report and the FACTS National Program Award Application.

Report:

When you fill out and submit the FACTS National Program Award Application, you will find a link to the RSA Report form where you will enter the data you collected during your Rural Teen RSA. This Report will include key findings from the RSA, such as seatbelt usage, red light violations, speeding, phone usage, and adherence to traffic laws at the intersection.

FACTS National Program Award Application and Rural Teen RSA Awards:

Complete the FACTS National Program Award Application in the FCCLA Portal by the March 1, 2024 deadline. This application will require you to share details of your RSA project. The top Twelve (12) chapters that complete an RSA and submit the FACTS National Program Award application will be selected to win a cash prize of \$1,000 per chapter.

Recognition and Awareness:

Highlight your findings by posting pictures on a bulletin board at your school. Focus on areas of concern and remind students to exercise caution.

Secure an article in your school newspaper to raise awareness about the project and how students can get involved.

Engagement with Local Authorities and Community:

Share your report with local schools and government officials. Discuss with them the potential next steps and recommendations for improving the intersection. This information should be disseminated to the community through local newspapers, social media, radio PSAs, and other outlets.

Continuous Improvement:

Reflect on the assessment process with your team. Discuss what went well and what could be improved for future RSAs. Collaborate with your FCCLA Chapter to establish an annual RSA initiative, showcasing the power of peer-to-peer traffic safety education and making your chapter a leader in road safety for the community.

For further questions or assistance, do not hesitate to contact FCCLA at programs@fcclainc.org.

