

# FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL



## *CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM*



## *Special Award Entry*

**IACP**



## Child Passenger Safety Program

FHP

The Florida Highway Patrol continues its commitment to ensuring that all children ride safely on Florida's roadways. Since recent national statistics show that 80% of all child safety seats are improperly installed, it continues to be critical that law enforcement personnel help educate the public on the proper installation and use of child restraint devices. FHP, recognizing the importance of this issue, makes available troopers and other FHP personnel who are certified technicians to instruct parents on the proper installation/inspection and use of child safety seats and booster seats. Currently, every FHP Troop across our state sets up regular child safety seat checks or classes to assist the public in identifying unsafe and improperly installed child safety seats as well as offering resource materials with the most current information available on a child passenger safety and occupant protection.

To further encourage traffic safety and the use of child safety seats and seat belts, FHP maintains six troopers in six troops. The CPS program is managed by the Florida Highway Patrol's Public Affairs Office. **Kim Jones** was hired to manage and coordinate the Child Passenger Safety Program and oversee the grants that supply the additional personnel, seats, supplies, and additional materials needed for the program. Since Kim is also a Certified Technician, she serves as the CPS Technician and resource for General Headquarters.

Six full-time troopers and 42 fellow CPS technicians work in the FHP's CPS Program. All 48 are Nationally Certified CPS Technicians who serve the citizens of the counties in each of their troops. Each of the CPS Techs is responsible for administering the child safety seat activities for their respective troops, and conducts child passenger safety checks/inspections and/or classes for the general public, health care workers, private and civic groups, and fellow FHP personnel. In addition, these troopers coordinate and oversee traffic safety presentations designed for a variety of audiences, including area high school students, on the importance of safety belt use. These troopers also serve as resources for other agencies on child passenger safety issues, and work closely with their local County Tax Collectors Office to promote the **\$2 Difference Program**, another program providing child safety seats to needy Florida families. Currently, the Florida Highway Patrol has 48 CPS Technicians and three Instructors on staff.

## CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT (2007)

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Qtr 1 Jan – Mar</b>	<b>Qtr 2 Apr – Jun</b>	<b>Qtr 3 Jul – Sep</b>	<b>Qtr 4 Oct - Dec</b>	<b>Total 2007</b>
(1) Number of people trained on the proper installation and use of child restraints.	22,053	28,610	20,935	33,384	<b>104,982</b>
(2) Number of public information or instructional events conducted on child restraints.	326	420	610	333	<b>1,689</b>
(3) Number of child safety seat checks and/or inspections conducted.	1,212	867	1,136	1,216	<b>4,431</b>
(4) Number of child passenger safety classes, presentations/demonstrations made targeting the” tween” population	218	201	754	153	<b>1,326</b>
(5) Number of child restraint presentations made targeting the Hispanic community and/or other ethnic group(s).	230	174	138	109	<b>651</b>
(6) Total number of child safety seats distributed to needy families.	697	726	744	659	<b>3,520</b>

# Subway, FHP Promote Safety for Kids



Trooper Lucy Papp speaks to the kids about safety in cars.

Recently, Southwest Florida area Subway restaurants and the Florida Highway Patrol partnered to promote the use of child identification kits, kicking off the promotion with a big event in Ft. Myers. FHP helped promote child passenger safety via the use of child I.D. kits through radio, television, and newspapers to spread the message on the importance of parents having identification information for their children in case of an emergency. National statistics show that every forty seconds a child is lost or missing. It is important that law enforcement have access to the child's information, including a current photo, description, and finger prints. Child I.D. kits were provided by Subway to participants at the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Myers at no cost to the families, and additional kits were made available to parents and kids in Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Collier, and Glades Counties at participating Subways. Thank you Subway and FHP for making Florida's kids safer on our roadways and in our state.



FHPA Trooper Ed Trimmer and Subway's Nathan Schwebach and Rick Sickmiller help kids with their I.D.



Trooper Lucy Papp fingerprints some kids from the Boys & Girls Club and talks to them about riding safe in cars.

## CPS Promoted in MLK Parade

Trooper Mary Jackson drives a new Chevy Tahoe towing a trailer full of child safety seats and traffic safety hand-outs for the public.



Troopers Tammy Burroughs and Jonathan Bent walked the two-mile parade route distributing hundreds of hand outs to parents to let them know about FHP's child passenger safety program.

## FHP Gets More Techs in Panhandle

Lt. Joe Tucker (Troop A – Panama City) recently helped sponsor a Child Passenger Safety Certification class at the Panama City FHP station. The class included four nurses from Gulf Coast Hospital, Trooper Tammy Tindle-Husar, and FHP Clerk Vicki Paul. The instructor, Marie Patterson, was assisted by Lt. Tucker to train more local CPS Techs to enhance community efforts to educate the public about the proper use of child restraints. Thank you FHP for your continued effort to help the kids in the Panhandle travel safely on area roadways.



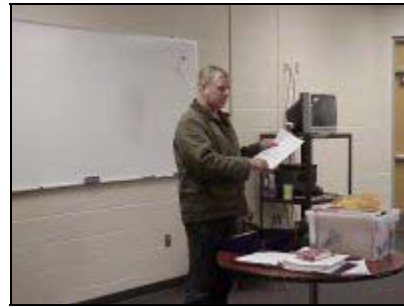
Vicki Paul checks for proper installation.



Trooper Tindle-Husar checks a booster seat.



FHP members attend class.



Lt. Tucker helps with instruction.

## ***FHP Conducts CPS Class in Jacksonville***

Trooper Dawn Tomlinson, Troop G's Occupant Protection Specialist, and Lieutenant Mike Burroughs, Troop B's Public Affairs Officer, recently provided Child Passenger Safety certification training for troopers and civilian personnel who work at the Jacksonville FHP station. Troopers and others attended the valuable training to learn more about how to properly install child safety seats and ensure their proper use. National statistics show that 80% of child safety seats are not installed or used correctly. The training offered in this National Child Passenger Safety Certification Course will allow FHP members to educate the motoring public and assist others in making sure children are properly restrained.



Trooper Dawn Tomlinson shows Troopers Roger Thomas, Colise Frazier, Ed Burse, and Mark Donaldson how to check a child seat for correct use.



Lt. Mike Burroughs shows Trooper Jeff Ryan where to find the labels on a child seat.



Class members listen attentively.



The training course includes outside learning.



Class members strap in a doll for practice.

## FHP Talks CPS at Miami Safety Fair



Last month, Troop E troopers participated in a Miami Safety Fair sponsored by a Christian Not for Profit Organization at Arcola Lakes Park. FHP, along with members from dozens of other safety agencies, worked together to promote safety and to teach the public about accident prevention. FHP troopers talked to the public about its Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection Programs, while the Metro Dade Police officers spoke about their DARE Program. Members of the public also learned about important safety issues such as HIV Screening, The Samantha Project, Home Safety, and the importance of Fire Safety, such as the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. Kids received safety toys, bike helmets, and free ID kits to help them remember to stay safe and healthy.



State Representative Yolly Roberson at FHP's Safety Day in the Park with OPS Trooper Mary Jackson





## Troopers Teach Safety with Toys



Troopers and Auxiliary members from Troop E distributed over 2,000 toys to less fortunate children in the Miami area this past holiday season in a series of partnerships with local clubs representing Ferrari, Mini Cooper, Corvette, Hummer, and numerous motorcycle manufacturers, along with the Miami Heat. The events involved many area celebrities, such as Univision news anchor Guillermo Benitez (Spanish Language TV), the Miami Heat's mascot Bernie, and the Miami Heat cheerleaders, who joined FHP in the fun. In addition, a booth was set up to promote child passenger safety and school bus safety.

For the first event, FHP and partners collected over 1,000 toys, which volunteers loaded onto 15 Hummers. Over 100 motorcyclists helped FHP escort the toys to St. Ann's Mission in Naranja. Children, most from migrant farm worker families, patiently lined up to receive a toy following a religious service at the mission. In addition to toys, the children were given information and trinkets promoting child passenger safety at a special booth promoting child safety seat use. Needy families were given information about how to obtain a free or low cost child seat from FHP's Child Passenger Safety Program.

## Troopers Teach Haitian Children about Safety

The following week, FHP joined the Sunshine Corvette Club in Homestead to deliver toys to kids at the Neva King Center for severely disabled people. Miami Heat mascot Bernie and the team's cheerleaders, local high school students, and FHP members assisted the hosts with the Christmas party that included music and entertainment for everyone.

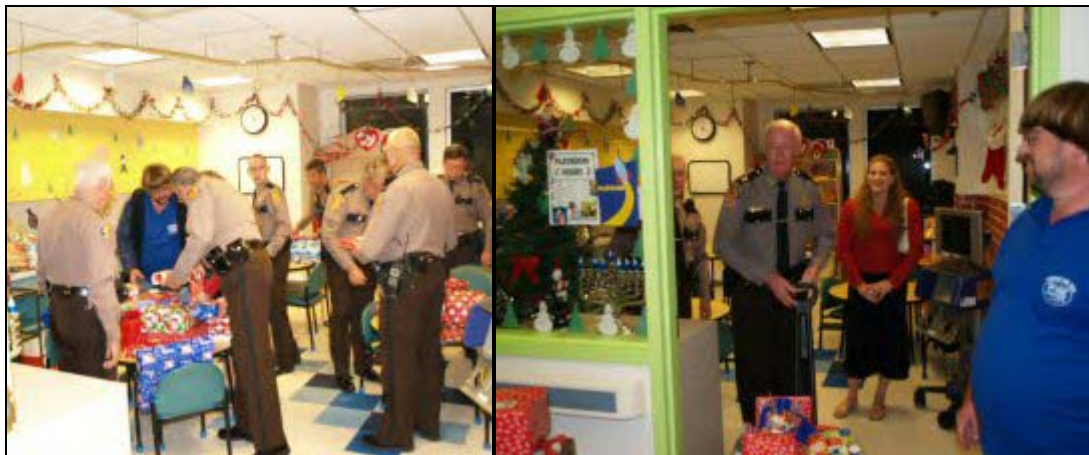
Just before Christmas, FHP hosted a party at Notre Dame D'Haiti Catholic Church in Little Haiti. A deejay kept things lively while members of a local motorcycle club performed a stunt show that amazed the kids. Several Ferraris were on display, including race cars and million dollar sports cars. Over 1,000 children received toys at the event. Dozens of parents received child passenger safety information as well.



# Troopers Spread Holiday Safety Messages



Just days before Santa will arrive, the Troop L Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary Unit decided to ensure that the hearts of ill children at a locate hospital would not be forgotten. FHPA Lieutenant Mickey King suggested to unit members that they should purchase a variety of gifts for ill children that would not be home for Christmas. The FHPA troopers sprang into action by buying many of the gifts but also collected some gifts from outside resources such as "Towing for Tots" that the auxiliary members assisted Trooper Conya Bassett with at a recent child passenger safety event. The FHPA troopers then delivered the toys to children at Palms West Hospital with great joy. As the troopers entered each room they were met with an instant smile and a warm heart by each child. Also at the event, the troopers talked to the children and parents about the importance of keeping children safe while in transport on our roadways.



As stated by Colonel John Czernis "The Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary plays a major role supporting the mission of the Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles and the Florida Highway Patrol". The Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary members not only provide protection to the troopers they ride with and the communities they serve, as in this case they inspire all of us by ensuring the safety of our state's child passengers and lifting the spirit of children in need by giving in a multitude of ways.

## FHP Delivers Safety Message to Kids



FHP recently participated in several safety events in Troop A in the Florida Panhandle area using one of the agency's popular Rollover Simulators to demonstrate the safety message that seat belts save lives! First, FHP participated in the annual *Kool Kids Day* at Chipola College in Marianna. Lt. Steve Preston and Auxiliary Trooper John Webster operated the Rollover at this year's event, which was sponsored by the Panhandle Area Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Coalition and targeted area third graders from Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties. Every year, several local agencies including FHP set aside a special day to provide area children with valuable safety lessons and demonstrations. Children were sent home with goodie bags containing booster seat information for their parents to read to them and activity books about staying safe in the car, in traffic, and on the playground.



The following week in Pensacola, FHP set up a display at a *Gulf Power Safety Day* where Gulf Power employees in the Pensacola area gathered for lunch at a special safety event. Troopers provided the employees with safety tips regarding travel to and from work and vehicle maintenance safety information. To reinforce the importance of wearing seat belts, FHP used the Rollover Simulator and shared their personal experiences of working crashes where seatbelts saved lives. Parents were given information about keeping their children safe in and around vehicles in Florida.



Trooper Conya Bassett, Lieutenant Tim Frith, Trooper Sevine Williams, and two local Driver License examiners stand in front of one of our agency's FLOW (Florida Licensing on Wheels) mobiles during the *Five Star Tour*.

A fleet of five FLOW mobiles manned by staff from DHSMV's Division of Drivers Licenses recently rolled out to greet the public and offer on-site services at several locations across the state. Using the FLOW mobiles, members of the public were able to renew their driver licenses and tags, get identification cards for their children, and input or update their emergency contact information. Additional safety information about teen driving, DUI dangers, and child passenger safety were made available at the safety booth.

While crowds lined up for services, Florida Highway Patrol staff demonstrated the importance of wearing a seat belt by putting their roll-over simulator and seat belt convincer in action. In Orlando, Trooper Kim Miller, Sergeant Jorge Delahoz, Sergeant Jim Montes, Lieutenant Kevin Vaughn, and Trooper Brian Hearn conducted safety demonstrations for the public while Major Cyrus Brown spoke about the Move-Over Law at a local press conference.

Later in the week, the FLOW mobiles headed south where troopers took a seat on the Five Star Tour in Royal Palm Beach. Hundreds of Florida residents took advantage of the convenience the mobile units provided by renewing their driver licenses on-site. This event provided a great opportunity for Recruiter Trooper Sevine Williams to generate public interest in employment with FHP while Occupant Protection Specialist Trooper Conya Bassett was able to present child passenger safety tips for parents in attendance.

A special thank you goes out to AAA members Randy Bly, Kathy Walters, Laura Lara-Palermo, and Kevin Bakewell for their gracious support, and to Senior Vice President Kevin Bakewell who spoke at the press conference about his company's partnership with our agency.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the kickoff and truly provided Five Star customer service in Orlando and Royal Palm and to the rest of our residents across the state. Below, Trooper Conya Bassett, a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, inspected child seats for a mother attending the event.



## FHP Attends Kid Summit



L to R: Trooper Lucy Papp, Troop F Occupant Protection Specialist, Denise McCabe, All Children's Hospital, and Sharon Tarmon, Manatee County Bike and Pedestrian Safety Program.

Recently, the Florida Highway Patrol participated in the Manatee County Kids Summit, an event that is held annually at the Manatee County Civic Center in Bradenton, Florida. This year, over twelve thousand families attended the Summit that is designed to encourage safe practices while riding on school buses, in cars, and on bikes.



All Children's Hospital, Safe Kids, and the Florida Highway Patrol teamed up to share the important message of riding safe in cars with kids in a variety of fun ways. In one activity, children were given the opportunity to color the seat belt of a vehicle on a t-shirt to teach them about proper positioning of the seat belt on their bodies. In another activity, children were fitted for booster seats using different measuring tools such as scales and growth charts to see who should ride in a booster seat. Children who did not have booster seats were supplied with them. One activity designed just for parents taught them how to *Spot the Tot*, a demonstration that illustrated the difficulty of seeing smaller children while backing a vehicle and the dangers of blind spots.



The Florida Highway Patrol was able to provide 75 child seats and boosters for the children who did not have them. Many of the children traveling to this event were riding completely unrestrained. Thankfully, they were able to leave safer than they came because of this important Kid Summit event.



Auxiliary Trooper Meltzer operates the Seat Belt Convincer.

The Florida Highway Patrol and other state agencies participated in a safety fair at North Broward Medical Center in recognition of *National Safety Month*. The event, sponsored by North Broward Medical Center and Wackenhut Security, encouraged Medical Center staff and members of the public attending the local event to adopt safe driving practices and become more aware of general safety and security issues.

Members of the FHP, Department of Transportation, and SMART SunGuide Traffic Management Center distributed safety pamphlets and information regarding the Road Ranger program and the new 511 traffic information system. Staff from DHSMV's Division of Driver Licenses brought the FLOWMOBILE to provide driver license services and stress the importance of the **Emergency Contact Website**.

Sergeant Mark Wysocky, Troop L Public Affairs Officer, Auxiliary Troopers Wayne Meltzer and Joe Cammarata invited some volunteers to ride the Seat Belt Convincer to demonstrate the importance of wearing a seat belt while others strapped on Fatal Vision goggles to simulate the dangers of drinking and

driving. Trooper Conya Bassett set up a Child Safety Seat Display and spoke with parents and caregivers about the importance of using the proper child seat and having seats installed properly.



A couple nurses attempt to walk heel-to-toe while wearing Fatal Vision goggles.

## **FHP Supports National Child Passenger Safety Week & Florida Booster Seat Legislation**

The Florida Highway Patrol is getting geared up for this year's National Child Passenger Safety Week by organizing a series of child safety events all across the state, beginning with a kick-off event at the state Capitol in Tallahassee. At the event, FHP and other safety advocates will show their support of Florida's pending booster seat legislation while distributing information about child passenger safety.



FHP's Child Passenger Safety Program Coordinator Kim Jones teaches a local day care center owner how to properly install child seats so she can better protect the children she transports every day.

# It's Child Safety Month



Since September is *National Child Passenger Safety Month AND Baby Safety Month*, this is the perfect time to make sure your children and grandchildren are riding safely in the family car. Current statistics show that 80% of all child seats are improperly installed and used in Florida. In addition, thousands of babies, toddlers, and young children ride completely unrestrained - no child seat, no booster, no seat belt. Last year in Florida, the number of children killed in traffic crashes who were riding unrestrained increased to 72%, up from 57% in 2005. Despite the fact that Florida's Child Restraint Law (Ch. 316.613, F.S.) requires children to ride properly restrained, many children are not protected because they are not in child seats or seat belts. Tragically, hundreds of unprotected children are seriously injured or killed in traffic crashes every year in our state.

To help parents, grandparents, and caregivers ensure children of all ages are better protected in vehicles on our roadways, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal experts in child passenger safety, recommend the following guidelines:

## **Child Seat Use Chart**

For a list of guidelines to help keep your child safe in the car, please visit NHTSA's website at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

Please join the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Transportation Safety Office, and hundreds of other organizations in recognizing September as the month to focus on the safety of our children who travel Florida's roadways, and to make a firm commitment to help protect our state's most vulnerable citizens.

For information about the Florida Highway Patrol's Award Winning **Occupant Protection & Child Passenger Safety Program**; to find out how you or someone you know can get their child's car seat checked for proper installation; or to find out how you can get a child seat if you cannot afford to purchase one for your child, please visit [www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/CPS](http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/CPS), email the program coordinator at [jones.kim@hsmv.state.fl.us](mailto:jones.kim@hsmv.state.fl.us), or call Kim Jones at (850) 617-2379.

## **Child Passenger Safety Photo/Story Gallery**

Children are our state's most precious resource. Let's work together to keep them safe in Florida!

## FHP Hosts State Farm & Safe Kids Worldwide Reunion



22 Technicians including 4 instructors evaluations demonstrated that the reunion was well received and they want more!



Technicians had an opportunity to check out some of the new seats on the market and learn more about ones that will be available soon.



Dawn Tomlinson, FHP CPSTI, Joy Atkins, State Farm Public Affairs and Kim Herrmann, SKW.

## TROOPERS TALK CPS AT TAMPA FAIR



Trooper Benjamin Weaver answers traffic safety questions for Fair attendees at the FHP display exhibit.

Again this year as in the past, Troop C participated in public education outreach at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. Our agency's participation in this important event would not be possible without the dedication and support from our Auxiliary. This year at the 103rd annual Florida State Fair, FHPA Lt. Nancy Newbould planned and set up the display with assistance from Occupant Protection Specialist Trooper Reggie Edwards and Pinellas Park's FHPA Sergeant Mark Woodhouse. FHPA Lt. Newbould and other Auxiliary members manned the display booth every day, greeting thousands of people in attendance, along with troopers who volunteered to assist with this year's event from all over the troop.



This year's FHP display included a retired Camaro patrol car and an informational booth with safety education materials and give-aways.

The display this year featured a retired FHP Camaro on loan from FHPA Sgt. Mark Woodhouse's personal collection of retired and restored patrol cars. In addition, the FHP display highlighted the patrol's commitment to reducing the number of traffic related fatalities on Florida's highways by featuring a variety of traffic safety information made available to the public, including brochures and posters on the dangers

of aggressive driving, driving under the influence, and the importance of using seatbelts and child restraints. Thanks to all who helped make this year's display one of the most popular at the 103rd Florida State Fair!

## FHP Works Child Safety Awareness Event



Earlier this month, the Venice Unit of the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary in Troop F volunteered at a local Child Safety Awareness Day in cooperation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments, the Charlotte County Police and Fire Departments, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, KIX Country Radio, WINK News, Nextel and Wal-Mart. Two troopers, eight Auxiliary troopers, one recruit, and a special volunteer worked the event full-time, while five additional troopers stopped by to help out during their shifts.



Attendees of the event were able to look at all the safety equipment on display and listen to emergency health workers, first responders, fire fighters, and law enforcement officers talk about their duties and responsibilities to keep children safe. FHP troopers also gave a K-9 demonstration to show children how dogs can be used during search and rescue operations. Firefighters set up a simulated smoke house, and showed kids how to get out in case of a fire.



A special thanks to Wal-Mart for donating 162 bike helmets for volunteers to give out to kids of all ages free of charge. Over 2 dozen child safety seats were distributed and checked at the event.



In 1995, the Florida legislature enacted a special donations program to allow motor vehicle owners to donate money to help purchase child safety seats for Florida's needy children. In 2007-08, 12 years later, the **\$2 Difference Child Safety Seat Program** is still going strong thanks to FHP. All monies donated to the program are used to purchase child safety seats for Florida families who cannot afford to purchase them for their children. The child safety seats are then distributed by the local tax collector's offices, the Florida Highway Patrol, or other designated agencies to families in need. The program, a joint statewide program involving the County Tax Collector's Offices, the Florida Highway Patrol, and the Division of Motor Vehicles, relies on the support and participation of the motoring public.

The County Tax Collector's Offices across the state are responsible for promoting the program to encourage donations from the public when they seek to obtain or renew motor vehicle registrations. The Florida Highway Patrol's **Public Affairs Office** is responsible for tracking the donations, purchasing the child safety seats, ensuring delivery of child seats to designated locations across the state, and ensuring the proper distribution of child safety seats to the needy public.

During the program's first year, nearly \$38,000 in donations was collected. By early 1999, a total of \$174,700 had been collected for the growing program. Now, near the end of its 12th year, the \$2 Difference Child Safety Seat Program has collected a total of \$782,587 from which thousands of child safety seats have been purchased and distributed to Florida's needy children. We urge the motoring public to continue to support this important program with your generous donations!

## FHP Partners with Insurance Industry to Promote CPS in Florida



FHP partners with 21st Century Insurance and TV Star Erik Estrada for a special Child Safety Fair at University Mall in Tampa.

In June in Tampa, FHP teamed up with 21st Century Insurance to hold a special Child Safety Fair to promote the use of child safety seats among Central Florida motorists. At the event, FHP and Auxiliary troopers, 21st Century Insurance Representative, Joyce Prager, and a crew of volunteers and support staff worked for hours in the heat to educate parents and grandparents on the proper installation and use of child safety seats. The news media was especially helpful in publicizing the event and bringing the message to the public to help raise awareness about the importance of buckling up children in proper child seats in vehicles.

Lucky participants and attendees at the Child Safety Fair were able to shake hands or get hugs and autographs from TV star Erik Estrada, who played the character *Ponch*, a motorcycle officer, on the popular television show *CHiPs* (California Highway Patrol) in the late 1970's. Estrada, a father himself, and strong safety advocate for children, works all over the United States to encourage the public to use properly installed child seats to help ensure their children's safety on our nation's roadways. Estrada and FHP's Occupant Protection Team Coordinator Kim Jones spoke on a local TV station to parents about the critical need for child seats to be properly installed and for parents to ensure their children ride properly restrained in child seats every time they get into their vehicles.



FHP motor troopers pose for photo with Estrada to promote the safety message to kids.



FHP's Kim Jones provides instructions in English while Erik Estrada translates into Spanish for this parent of a small child.

Under the capable direction of Public Affairs Officer Trooper Larry Coggins, Occupant Protection Specialist Trooper Reggie Edwards, and FHPA Lt. Nancy Newbould, FHP's team of Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians that included members from GHQ, Troop D and Troop F, did a phenomenal job assisting the public with their child restraint needs. Despite the oppressive heat in the parking lot of the University Mall, CPS technicians worked hard to help each person who showed up. Cars were lined up everywhere with parents patiently waiting to get their children's child seats inspected by the experts. Child seats that were recalled, too old, defective, or inappropriate for the children were replaced with brand new child seats, free of charge, compliments of traffic safety partner 21st Century Insurance.



Trooper Reggie Edwards, Trooper Larry Coggins, and FHPA Lt. Nancy Neubault did an excellent job organizing the event.

In all, six FHP CPS technicians inspected 125 child seats, distributed 83 new seats, and removed 30 defective seats that had to be destroyed because they were unsafe for use. Several of the seats that had been used were cracked and missing important parts. Many child seats that were inspected were improperly installed by parents, including one in which the parents had not used the seat belt to secure the seat to the vehicle, but opted to use bungee cords instead.



Over 100 children left the event safe and happily buckled up.

Thanks to the efforts of Troopers Kim Miller, Wanda Diaz, and Lucy Papp who traveled to Tampa from their home troops to help out, the event was a huge success. The heavily publicized event drew a large crowd, gained lots of media attention for the cause, and provided a valuable public service to the community. Thanks again to our partners in traffic safety--21st Century Insurance and Erik Estrada-- for their generous support of our child safety efforts in Florida. A great big *THANK YOU* for everyone who participated in this important CPS event. You are all greatly appreciated for your hard work and dedication!











# FHP Checks Child Seats in the Keys



Recently, Troop E participated in National Child Passenger Safety Week 2007 by combining resources with Monroe County authorities to hold a series of events promoting child passenger safety. FHP worked with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Key Largo Fire Rescue and the Monroe County Healthy Start Coalition to sponsor events in Key West, Marathon, Islamorada and Key Largo.

FHP Occupant Protection Specialist Trooper Mary Jackson and fellow troopers Jackson Morisseau and Tammy Broughton, both Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians from Troop E, conducted a series of child seat checkpoints from Key West to Key Largo. Checkpoints at three Keys area Publix Stores and Coral Shores High School enabled the team to ensure the proper transport of 91 Keys children. Together, the team checked 60 child seats for proper installation; 46 child seats were found to be damaged, defective, or expired. The team also distributed 46 child safety seats to the public.

In addition, FHP set up a series of special enforcement details with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to enforce the primary seat belt law for drivers under 18 years old. Troopers and deputies also targeted adults driving with children who were unrestrained.

FHP Public Affairs Officer Lt. Pat Santangelo and Monroe County Public Information Officer Becky Hems alerted the news media in the Keys to heavily publicize the locations of the checkpoints with continuous radio Public Service Announcements and newspaper articles. In addition, Lt. Santangelo and Ms. Hems distributed joint press releases and conducted guest appearances throughout the week on live radio, educating residents about the new primary seat belt law for teens and the importance of making sure children ride restrained in child safety seats.

## FHP Shows Support of Booster Seat Legislation



Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp speaks out about the need to pass tougher child seat legislation to protect older children up to age 8 at a special press conference at the Capitol prior to the opening of the new session. FHP representatives and members of the Urban League show support for Florida's new Booster Seat Bill.



Juice boxes in hand, these “tweens” look on as they witness what happens when kids don’t buckle up in a car. One of FHP’s rollover simulators just demonstrated why kids of all ages must ride restrained every time, every ride, and why booster seats should be used until age 8.





**FHP Promotes Child Passenger Safety for all children from birth to age 8 and beyond!**

