

# 16

# Sixteen Minutes



# Sixteen Minutes in a Fifteen Year Old's Life

## Program Guide for Presenters

This program is intended to emphasize three key focus areas that young drivers will experience during their first journey behind the wheel. It will be split into three distinct sections.

### Timing Sequence

The topics below will change every five minutes, totaling 15 minutes with one minute left over for the conclusion. Seat belts must remain an underlying theme throughout the presentation.

**1. Expectation and Reality.** This section is about handing over responsibility from parent to child (as illustrated by the key exchange in the picture). It's important to explore the expectations 15-year-olds have about driving and the realities experienced by their 16-year-old peers. It's also necessary to stress the importance of wearing a seat belt before new drivers even get behind the wheel.

**2. Behavior and Consequences.** This section explores the dangers of driving for teenagers and the behaviors that can cause a serious crash. It's important to explain crash characteristics unique to this age group and strategies for avoiding them. A key message in this section is that a seat belt is the best defense in a crash.

**3. Enforcement and Penalty.** This section introduces teenagers to Pennsylvania's seat belt law and the Click It or Ticket campaign. Ticketing procedures and prices will be explained during this part of the presentation.



### Program Procedure (Tips)



**1. Why wear seat belts, and why wear them correctly?** (5 minutes) "Buckling up everytime you get into a vehicle is not just recommended; it's the law." Discuss various ways students may wear a seat belt incorrectly; ( e.g. behind the back, slouched low in the seat and to the side, or removing the seat belts completely )

When discussing what it might be like to drive before actually getting behind the wheel, most 15-year-olds have admitted to being scared, nervous and fearful of crashing. Many also believed it would be fun and empowering. Maintaining control is the most important message for this section. Graduated licensing should also be discussed.



**2. Seat belts are your best protection in a crash.** (5 minutes) Many crashes that occur among teenagers involve distracted drivers, aggressive and impaired drivers and drivers carrying too many passengers for a vehicle. The most important message in this section is that always wearing a seat belt is the best defense in a crash (explain how belts and airbags work together when used properly). Consequences of risk-taking (e.g. injury and death) should also be discussed.



**3. Seat belts are the law, and one might save your life.** (5 minutes) Read the part of Pennsylvania's seat belt law that pertains to children their age and highlight the parts of the law involving transporting children younger than themselves. Click It or Ticket should also be explained in this section, as well as seat belt ticket costs. Explain that you'd rather ticket teenagers than contact their parents to tell them that they won't be coming home again. "How we meet is up to you ... if you don't buckle up, I may be there, but you'll never know it."



**4. Closing.** (1 minute) "Driving is a privilege, not a right. We want to believe that everyone on the road is safe and responsible, but you know that's not the case. Protect yourself and wear a seat belt. Your life and the lives of your passengers depends on it."

## **Program Planning**

- Only students who will turn 16 within the month should participate.
- The program should be scheduled as close to the 16th of the month as possible.
- Group size should be limited so that the presentation can be conducted in a smaller, less formal manner. You should sit among the students.
- A student should be designated to monitor five minute intervals to keep the presentation moving from topic to topic.
- A strong, significant statement should close the presentation.
- Try to sit strategically among the students facing a clock to time 5 minute intervals.

# 16 Sixteen Minutes



This curriculum is a cooperative effort from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, The Schuylkill County Commissioners, District Attorney of Schuylkill County; James P. Goodman, the North Central Highway Safety Network and Buckle Up Pennsylvania.

Buckle Up Pennsylvania • [www.buckleuppa.org](http://www.buckleuppa.org) • Phone: (570) 628-2416 • Email: [buckleup@buckleuppa.org](mailto:buckleup@buckleuppa.org)