



DEVELOPING A CHAPTER OF THE OHIO SAFE KIDS COALITION

What is a Local Chapter of the Ohio SAFE KIDS Coalition?

A local Ohio SAFE KIDS (OSK) Chapter is a broad based group of community members and agencies working toward the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries in their communities. OSK Chapters target leading causes of death and disability to children ages 14 and under. These include motor vehicle injuries (including children as occupants, pedestrians and bicyclists); drowning; fire and burns; suffocation; choking; unintentional firearm; falls; and poisonings.

What is the Difference between a Chapter and a Coalition?

Coalitions sign a contract with the National SAFE KIDS Campaign (NSKC) after an intensive community planning and organization process. The group must agree to the minimum coalition requirements set forth by the NSKC. The minimum requirements for a Coalition are much more extensive than for a Chapter. Chapters, unlike Coalitions, sign an agreement with the Ohio SAFE KIDS Coalition. They receive information, have access to discounted materials and learn about funding opportunities through OSK. Chapters do not have a direct relationship with the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

What Types of Organizations can Become Chapters?

Local organizations with a genuine interest in child injury prevention and a willingness to meet the lead agency and chapter facilitator responsibilities as stated in the OSK Chapter Agreement form are eligible for Chapter status. *Chapters are formed only in areas without an existing SAFE KIDS Coalition or Chapter to eliminate competition and encourage collaboration.*

Lead agencies for chapters of OSK must be located within the county, community, or area that they will be serving. Coordination of chapters must also be from within the county/community/area where the chapter will be located.

What Resources and Benefits are Available to Chapters in Ohio?

- Chapters can utilize the OSK Coalition as a resource for planning, implementing and evaluating injury prevention programs.
- Chapters can benefit from forming cooperative and mentoring relationships with existing SK coalitions.
- Chapter Facilitators may attend OSK-sponsored training opportunities.
- Chapter Facilitators may attend the OSK annual meeting in Columbus and participate on OSK conference calls. These meetings provide the opportunity to participate in statewide information sharing and planning.
- Through the OSK Coalition, chapters have access to National SAFE KIDS Campaign materials including:
 1. *Injury Prevention Strategies* such as sample safety legislation, public awareness campaigns and evaluation techniques.
 2. *Injury Prevention Support Materials at Low Cost* - for example audiovisuals, printed pieces, media resources (PSAs, news releases, media advisories) brochures, posters, booklets, and teacher's guides.

LEAD AGENCY:

*Ohio Department
of Public Safety
1970 W. Broad St.
1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43223*

*614/466-2895 phone
614/466-9461 FAX
cbeeghly@dps.state.oh.us*

Chapter Benefits Continued:

3. Safety Products at Discounted Rates - child safety seats, smoke detectors, bike helmets, etc.
 4. Financial Support - Through affiliation with the Ohio SAFE KIDS Coalition, Chapters have the opportunity to apply for NSKC funding opportunities for events such as child passenger safety check-ups and bike safety events.
- Chapter Facilitators may have the opportunity to attend the National SAFE KIDS Annual Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.
 - Chapters are included in the OSK website and quarterly newsletter.
 - Chapters can use the Ohio SAFE KIDS logo for approved activities/materials.

What is Expected of a Chapter of the Ohio SAFE KIDS Coalition?

- Groups applying for Chapter status are expected to have broad-based representation of agencies, individuals and sources of local information or energy related to injury prevention.
- Local OSK Chapters must identify a lead agency and primary contact person who will serve as the Chapter Facilitator.
 1. *Lead agency* responsibilities include providing office space and support, meeting space and financial accounting in addition to allowing the Chapter Facilitator to devote some portion of business hours for Chapter activities.
 2. *The Chapter Facilitator* is expected to plan and oversee at least four chapter meetings annually and keep the Ohio SAFE KIDS Coordinator updated on chapter activities.
- The Chapter is expected to recruit and collaborate with other community groups or agencies and implement at least two injury prevention projects each year based on the mission of the OSK Coalition and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

How Do We Become a Chapter of the Ohio SAFE KIDS Coalition?

In order to become a Chapter, organizations must read and agree to follow the minimum Chapter requirements that are outlined in the Ohio SAFE KIDS [Chapter Agreement Form](#). This agreement must be signed and accompanied by:

- Three letters of support from other agencies in the community/city/county.
- A brief description and plan for the upcoming year including, but not limited to, a description of the two unintentional injury prevention activities.
- A completed membership application.

The OSK Executive Board and Membership committee will vote on all chapter applications and you will be notified in writing of the decision. You may also be contacted by the OSK Coordinator to obtain additional information.

Those interested in forming an OSK Chapter should be aware that time and resources are needed. Lead agency support is necessary in order to successfully develop a chapter and implement projects.