When you support Extension, teens and their parents consider consequences of poor driving habits and make changes to save lives.

A mock crash demonstrated how the Central Campbell Fire District follows a strategic plan during an automobile accident. According to the National Safety Council, “Traffic crashes are the leading cause of fatalities for teens.”

Extension Provides Driver Safety Program for Teens and Their Parents

“[Teens on Wheels] has changed people’s lives in many different ways from opening up communication between parents and teens to adults re-evaluating their own driving habits.

This program has become a model for other driving programs throughout Kentucky and surrounding areas. In my years as a police officer and my 12 years as a firefighter, I haven’t saved as many lives as I have being involved in this program.”

-Lt. Thomas Stubbeman, Highland Heights Police Department (Retired)
In the Driver’s Seat program allows juvenile traffic offenders to avoid court costs of $144.00 and their parents avoid fines that range from $10 to $100, points assessed on their teen’s drivers’ license and possible increase of insurance rates.

**Teens On Wheels** was created by the Campbell County Family & Consumer Sciences Agent after experiencing a family tragedy. The program addresses the need for teen driver safety in the community. The program consists of four sessions addressing: consequences of making poor choices, maneuvering an obstacle course while texting or talking on a cell phone, accident reconstruction, rollover simulation demonstrating safety belt use, and a mock trial focusing on the consequences of making poor choices. Approximately 540 teens plus their parents or guardians have attended the **Teens On Wheels** Program since 2003.

**In the Driver’s Seat** is a condensed program mandated by the Court of Justice for juvenile offenders and their families. The program is offered three times a year by Extension and community partners. Approximately 600 teens plus their parents or guardians have attended the **In the Driver’s Seat** since 2004.

**District Court Judge Karen Thomas** has been a key collaborator for **Teens On Wheels** and is the reason **In the Driver’s Seat** was developed. Judge Thomas shared that “The programs support the concept of restoration justice which is the cornerstone of juvenile justice reform. There are no other programs that serve the Court of Justice and both teens and parents in Campbell County. Young drivers making bad decisions are a cost to the community in property damage, expending time of police personnel who have to appear in court, and the court’s time. **[In the Driver’s Seat]** provides an educational program for young drivers that act as an alternative to adult traffic court consequence. The juvenile offenders and their family can avoid or reduce fines, court cost, and increased insurance rates by attending **In the Driver’s Seat**.”

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*University of Cincinnati Health Air Care Mobile Care participated in the mock crash in collaboration with the Central Campbell Fire District.*

*A Highland Heights Police Officer and teen demonstrated consequences of texting while driving.*

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Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.