

SAFE K:DS PLATTE VALLEY

OGALLALA AFFILIATE

10 Years!
2004-2014

2014
Annual Report

Safe Kids Platte Valley—Ogallala Affiliate 2014 Annual Report

A Safe Kids program has served Ogallala and Keith County continuously since 2004! Safe Kids Sandhills was formed in February of 2004 when members of the Ogallala area community came together to form a community coalition dedicated to preventing the number one cause of death for children under age 14: accidental injury. We affiliated as a chapter of Safe Kids Nebraska.

In 2013, a structural change to the Safe Kids USA coalition network led to the elimination of local chapters. Chapters were allowed to transition to a coalition, but Sandhills did not meet the criteria of having at least one half-time paid staff member.

The local board decided to become a local affiliate of the Safe Kids Platte Valley Coalition, which was able to transition from Chapter to Coalition. Safe Kids Platte Valley is led by Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, and serves several counties in the region, including Lincoln County to the east.

As an affiliate of an existing coalition, local funds are allowed to be kept in Ogallala, so the Ogallala Youth Committee, a board of the City of Ogallala, agreed to act as the fiscal agent.

Partners:

A group of committee members meets quarterly to guide the chapter. Scott Eveland is chair of the committee.

Committee members represent the Boating Safety Section of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce, Keith County Sheriff's Office, Ogallala Fire Department, Ogallala Police Department, ESU 16, Goodall Public Library, and other local stakeholders.

Electronic media:

Our web site is located at the Safe Kids Nebraska site, www.SafeKidsNebraska.org. The central site provides information on all Safe Kids Coalitions and Chapters in the state. Our chapter president created and maintains the state site under contract with Safe Kids Nebraska.

A Facebook page is maintained as "Safe Kids Platte Valley—Ogallala Affiliate."

Target areas:

Child passenger safety and water safety continued to be our primary areas of focus. However, other injury areas, including wheeled sports safety are addressed.

Projects and Events:

Safe Kids Buckle Up Car Seat Checks:

February 13 at Ogallala

Seats checked: 4

Seats correct: 0

Seats distributed: 1

May 15 at Ogallala

Seats checked: 4

Seats correct: 0

Seats distributed: 1

August 14 at Ogallala

Seats checked: 1

Seats correct: 0

Seats distributed: 1

November 13 at Ogallala

Seats checked: 8

Seats correct: 0

Seats distributed: 1



Fishing is Fun

In partnership with the Ogallala Youth Committee and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, we distributed child life jackets to approximately 30 kids attending the Fishing is Fun fishing clinic and water expo at Lake Ogallala in June. In addition to receiving the fitted life jackets, each child also received water safety education.

National Night Out

Bike helmets were distributed at the National Night Out event in August.

Sport injury/concussion:

In partnership with the Ogallala Youth Committee, mouth guards were purchased to be distributed at youth football sign-up in September.

Touch-a-truck/Bike Rodeo:

On September 14 we partnered with OYC to hold a bike rodeo at their Touch-a-truck event. About 20 kids went through the bike rodeo event and nine new helmets were distributed.

Funding:

The life jackets distributed at the clinic were left over from the 2012 water safety grant provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.



Helmets were purchased in 2012 by a donation from the Ogallala Youth Committee. Additional helmets were given to us by parent coalition, Safe Kids Platte Valley.

We applied for a Keith County Community Foundation grant in the amount of \$2,000 to fund water safety programs for 2015. We were awarded \$1,000 on October 30. That will be used to purchase ski flags and life jackets for the 2015 season.

Car seats used for 2014 events were purchased in 2013 with a Safe Kids Nebraska mini-grant. We are working to clear that inventory and will apply for a grant in 2015 to replenish that stock.

Goals for 2015:

Three car seat checks will be held, with emphasis on growing attendance for the events. Traditional advertising seems to be more effective than social media, but both will be utilized.

We have the opportunity to host the 2015 “west” class for Child Passenger Safety Technician certification, which will likely be held in August 2015.

Quarterly meetings will continue, and close coordination with the Ogallala Youth Committee will need to continue as they act as our fiscal agent, and we have a natural partnership with their committee.