



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2017

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND ILLINOIS STATE POLICE LAUNCH OPERATION KID 2017

*First event scheduled May 20 at The Children's Museum of Oak Lawn
to help parents create kids' identification cards and install child safety seats*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15 are launching Operation Kid 2017 to keep children safe and parents worry-free, every trip, every time.

Ten Kids Identification and Safety Seat (K.I.S.S.) events are scheduled for 2017 throughout Northern Illinois to provide free kids' ID cards and inspect and install child safety seats. The first K.I.S.S. event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at The Children's Museum of Oak Lawn.

"This summer, we're promoting Operation Kid to make keeping kids safe as easy as one, two, three," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "Last year, nearly 440 child safety seats were checked and nearly 800 kids ID cards issued at K.I.S.S. at our events."

1 – Find and event near you!

The Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15 are hosting the free K.I.S.S. events at convenient locations, including children's museums, malls and Tollway oases.

A complete list is available on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.

2 – Get a photo ID card for your child

At K.I.S.S. events, trained professionals take photographs and fingerprints of children 3 and older and gather vital information to include on an ID card that parents and caregivers can reference in an emergency.

Up to 90 percent of families will at some point temporarily lose a child in a public place, surveys indicate. Kids IDs are a tool that provide police with an accurate description to help locate lost children.

3 – Make sure your child's safety seat is safely installed

Certified child passenger safety technicians inspect child safety seats and help with proper positioning and installation, as well as provide information on correct sizing, expiration dates and recalls to protect children most effectively.

Properly installed child safety seats save lives and significantly reduce injuries in the event of a crash. Yet, Illinois State Police find that approximately 90 percent of child safety seats they inspect are improperly installed.

"One child fatality on Illinois roadways is one too many," said District 15 Commander Robert Meeder. "K.I.S.S. events offer a convenient way for drivers to make sure they comply with Illinois law, which requires that whenever a person is transporting a child under age 8, the person is responsible for properly securing the child in an appropriate child restraint system."

2017 K.I.S.S. Events

Operation Kid 2017 launches on Saturday, May 20, with an event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Children Museum of Oak Lawn, 5100 Museum Drive. Highlights include:

- Free identification cards for children ages 3 and older and child safety seat inspections and installations.
- Touch-a-truck display featuring hands-on exploration of a Tollway H.E.L.P. truck, snowplow, Illinois State Police and Oak Lawn Police Department vehicles.
- Earth and Space Program activities provided by The Children’s Museum in Oak Lawn.
- Windy City ThunderBolts baseball team mascot Boomer.
- Half-price museum admission for families receiving safety seat inspections and kids IDs.

K.I.S.S. events are scheduled at a variety of locations along the 292-mile Illinois Tollway system throughout Northern Illinois:

May 20	Children’s Museum of Oak Lawn
May 27	Itasca Fire Department/Itasca Police Department
June 10	Hinsdale Oasis
June 17	Kohl Children’s Museum in Glenview
July 8	Discovery Center Museum in Rockford
July 22	Ikea Schaumburg
August 5	Promenade Bolingbrook
August 12	DuPage Children’s Museum in Naperville
September 16	Lake Forest Oasis
September 23	Family Safety Fair at Tollway headquarters in Downers Grove

For more information about Operation Kid 2017, visit the Tollway’s website at illinoistollway.com.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 292 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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