



News from the Ohio Turnpike

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For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike announces 2nd annual W82TXT Teen Video Contest

The Commission also will distribute Red Thumb Bands to high schools upon request

BEREA (May 22, 2019) – The Ohio Turnpike today announced a fun and important contest for high schoolers to encourage distracted drivers to kick their dangerous habit.

Students in grades 9-12 can encourage their peers to drive safely and win some great prizes by participating in the 2nd annual “**W82TXT**” **Teen Video Contest**.

By producing and submitting a video, high schoolers can have fun, help spread awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and compete for great prizes like a GoPro, Apple iPad and a \$250 Amazon Gift Card. In addition to these great prizes, the Ohio Turnpike will also donate \$500 to the grand prize winner’s booster club of choice.

“Distracted driving is a major problem for everyone on our nation’s roadways. Unfortunately, the problem is even more prevalent among our youngest drivers,” said Ferzan M. Ahmed, P.E., Executive Director. “Please, no selfie videos. Get creative and help influence your peers to make safe choices behind the wheel.”

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety indicates new teen drivers are three times as likely as adults to be involved in a deadly crash during the summer months between Memorial Day and Labor Day, known as the “100 Deadliest Days of Summer.” **Videos must be submitted by July 4, 2019.** Red Thumb bands with the message “W82TXT” will be distributed to northern Ohio High Schools upon request and at Ohio Turnpike Customer Appreciation Events.

[Click here](#) for more information and contest details and watch the [VIDEO](#) by Director Ahmed, which was filmed with high school students at Fairview High School in Fairview Park, Ohio.

Designed to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving, the Turnpike Commission’s inaugural contest reached far and wide for entries across the state of Ohio.

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Here are the winners from 2018:

- Grand Prize Winner: Samuel Richardson of Loveland High School, Loveland, Ohio, for his animated short video, “#W82TXT.”

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

- Runner-up: Kate Barnhart of St. Ursula Academy, Toledo, Ohio, for her video titled, “Put the Phone Down and W82TXT.”

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

- 2nd Runner-up: Olivia McConnell of LaBrae High School, Leavittsburg, Ohio, for her video titled “Put it Down—don’t’ text and drive—it can wait.

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

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