

Amherst Police Dept.
911 N. Lake Street
Amherst, Ohio 44001



AAA East Central

Summer 2013

Dear Parent:

Children aged 14 and under are very vulnerable to head injury while riding their bikes. This remains true regardless of how responsible and careful your children are when riding their bicycles. Helmets have been shown to reduce the risk of a life-long brain or head injury by 85%. Nationally, AAA reports a small percent of all kids wear bike helmets.

Our police department and community are proud to participate in the Helmet Smart campaign. Through this campaign we are encouraging all parents to take an active role in their children's safety by encouraging all children to wear bike helmets when riding. Did you know helmets that meet ASTM shatter-resistant impact standards can be purchased for as little as \$10? A helmet can save your child's life!

This year officers from our department and other area police departments will issue a Safety Citation when they witness a bicyclist wearing a safety helmet. This citation can be redeemed at any participating location. The bearer of the safety citation is also eligible for a drawing for bicycles from AAA.

We also have available for you information on how parents can encourage their children to make it a habit to wear a bicycle helmet every time they ride their bikes. These materials include the "Parent-Child Contract/Tips for Parents" and information on safety helmet use. Should you have any questions on the Helmet Smart campaign, or on bike helmets, please contact our department or AAA at 800-845-0375.

Remember: your child's bicycle is a vehicle, not a toy. Use of helmets can prevent a tragic life-long injury to your children. Only through your active involvement will your children form the helmet habit every time they ride their bicycles. It is also very important that you set an example for your children by always properly wearing a helmet whenever you are riding a bike. What better way to show your love for your children than to protect them from serious injury by always having them wear a helmet every time they ride their bikes?

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Kucirek, Chief of Police

P.S.: Please be sure to sign the Parent Child Contract and discuss the contract with your son or daughter.

