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News Release

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Teenagers to get sobering message about drunk driving ***Youth will drive go-carts “under the influence”***

The Branson Police Department and The Track Family Fun Parks in Branson team up to launch a hands-on program to educate high school teenagers on the dangerous consequences of drinking and driving.

Students from Branson and Reeds Spring high schools will be participating in the program called “Life on Track” **April 6 and 8 starting at 9 a.m. at The Track 5 location, 3525 West Highway 76.**

The experience utilizes simulator DUI goggles, a go-cart driving course and a driving evaluation to showcase the effects of driving under the influence of alcohol. There will also be an element of texting while driving and walking the line when “under the influence.”

The teenagers will learn, in a safe environment, how dangerous and difficult it actually is to drive while intoxicated.

The “Life on Track” precedes the high school prom season, a prime time for underage drinking and driving, and The Track Family Fun Parks and Branson Police Department want to focus on this serious issue.

“This is another of our ongoing steps to keep the youth in our community safe and teach the importance of making good life decisions,” said Branson Police Chief Caroll McCullough.

Brad Swofford, assistant superintendent of Branson Schools, commended the police department and The Track for educating students about the dangers of drinking and driving.

“The message to students is even louder when we all join forces and deliver it directly to them,” Swofford said.

According to the Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition of the Taney County Health Department, the average age of youth who have had their first taste of alcohol has decreased to 12. Nearly 50% of adolescents have had at least one drink by the 8th grade.

Through “Life on Track,” the police department and The Track are taking an active role in helping to focus attention on this serious issue.

“It’s good to live and work in a town that places a high priority on the safety of our youth,” said Officer Matt Gregory, community relations and DARE coordinator with the Branson Police Department. “I’m convinced that our combined efforts are helping our youth make wise decisions.