



Dear Schools and Youth Groups:

Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) is excited to offer a brand-new spring project this year, **Project GPS: Get Places Safely**. This project is a free and educational initiative designed to help teens make smart travel choices during the “100 Deadliest Days” between Memorial Day and Labor Day, one of the most dangerous times of year for young drivers and passengers.

Project GPS is offered in partnership with the Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and State Farm, and includes free educational materials, incentive items, and ready-to-use project ideas. Our goal is simple: reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities among young drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists by promoting safe behaviors during the high-risk spring and summer months.

Middle School Focus: At the middle school level, Project GPS builds a strong foundation of traffic safety awareness. Students learn the importance of positive passenger behaviors, consistent seat belt use, and understanding their rights as passengers. The project also explores pedestrian and bicycle safety, helping students develop safe, everyday travel habits before they ever get behind the wheel.

High School Focus: At the high school level, Project GPS shifts toward preventing high-risk driving behaviors. The emphasis is on reducing teen speeding and increasing seat belt use, while also addressing distraction-free driving and other common warm-weather risks such as driving with too many passengers, drowsy driving, curfew violations, and alcohol or drug use. Through peer-to-peer engagement and creative activities, students are encouraged to influence one another to make responsible choices during prom, graduation, and other celebratory events.

The spring component of the project will take place March 9 – May 22, 2026. Schools and youth groups may participate at their own pace, choosing either a competition or participation level. Redesigned toolkits for both levels will make planning and implementation simple and flexible. Every level of participation makes a difference; even small efforts can have a life-saving impact.

Whether you are competing or participating, please register to receive free educational and incentive materials on driver and passenger safety. Schools and youth groups may register at any time; however, materials are available on a first come, first served basis.

For the registration link, and all competition guidelines, visit <https://www.yovaso.org/project-gps/>.

We look forward to partnering with you to help students *Get Places Safely* this spring and summer. With your help, our organization and Virginia youth can work together to create a positive culture of safe teen driving and passenger safety!

Best Wishes,
Callie Toler, YOVASO Program & Curriculum Coordinator

