



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 3, 2017

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND ILLINOIS STATE POLICE OPERATION KID
OFFERS FAMILY FUN AND SAFETY EVENT JULY 8 IN ROCKFORD**

Free safety seat checks and kids ID cards available at K.I.S.S. event at Discovery Center Museum

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15 are working to keep children safe every trip, every time through Operation Kid 2017 and are hosting a free Kids Identification and Safety Seat (K.I.S.S.) event Saturday, July 8, at Discovery Center Museum in Rockford.

“Child ID cards are simple and proven way to keep kids safe, not only on summer vacations, but also for travel year round,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “An up-to-date, good quality photo along with the descriptive information an ID card provides is one of the most effective tools to help locate the child. We invite families to stop by, get ID cards for their kids and have some fun with our District 15 and Tollway safety experts.”

The next Operation Kid K.I.S.S. event is scheduled Saturday, July 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Discovery Center Museum, 711 North Main Street in Rockford. Highlights include:

- Free identification cards for children ages 3 and older.
- Child safety seat inspections and installations.
- Touch-a-truck display featuring hands-on exploration of a Tollway H.E.L.P. truck and snowplow.
- The Rockford Fire Department’s Survive Alive House – a home escape demonstration simulator custom built for kids.
- One free admission pass to Discovery Center Museum and the *Hello from Japan* exhibit for families receiving safety seat inspections and kids IDs.

[Discovery Center Museum](#) is a hands-on children's museum with more than 300 exciting interactive exhibits spread over a two-floor area and an outdoor park. All exhibits relate to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math). Out in the museum's backyard, visitors can explore Rock River Discovery Park, a giant, multi-level science park with a hands-on twist!

Operation Kid 2017 – It’s as easy as 1-2-3!

Operation Kid 2017 K.I.S.S. events make staying safe quick and convenient for parents, grandparents, caregivers, and fun for kids by providing free kids’ ID cards and child safety seat inspection and installation help. K.I.S.S. events are scheduled throughout Northern Illinois in 2017.

1 – Find an 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 tools that provide police with accurate descriptions 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.”

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.

###