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## TEEN WINS DRIVE SAFE CHICAGO VIDEO CONTEST

### Wins \$2,000 Prize and Video She Created Will Air on 160 TV Stations Nationwide

CHICAGO, Feb. 6, 2025 – Emily Bergen, 16, a student at Gillespie High School in Gillespie IL, has won the annual Drive Safe Chicago public service announcement contest. Antonio Knott, 15, of Merrillville High School in Merrillville IN, placed second in the voting, and Noelani Elizalde, 17, also from Merrillville High School, was third.

Sponsored by the National Road Safety Foundation in partnership with the Chicago Auto Show, teens from Illinois and surrounding states were invited to submit ideas for a 30-second PSA about sharing the road with other passenger vehicles, trucks, motorcycles and pedestrians.

Three finalists were selected and each worked with an Emmy Award-winning producer to transform their PSA submissions into 30-second TV public service announcements. The public was then able to vote for their favorite online. More than 1,400 online votes were cast.

The winner received \$2,000 and will be featured on nationally syndicated Teen Kids News, reaching more than 160 TV stations across the country. The first runner-up got \$1,000 and the second runner-up won \$500. All three finalists' teachers received \$100 gift cards.

Bergen's winning PSA shows a young driver starting her car and pressing a "share the road" button. As she drives, an AI voice warns her of a bicyclist, a pedestrian and children in a school zone. The voice then reminds her, "Cars don't come with devices like me, which is why you need to know how to share the road."

"The carnage on our roads can be reduced if drivers remain aware of others who share the road," said Michelle Anderson of The National Road Safety Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes safe driving. "We think the creative ideas about sharing the road from our Drive Safe Chicago winner and runners-up convey that message effectively."

"Although today's new cars are safer than ever, with technological advances that are proven to help avoid crashes," said Chicago Auto Show Chairwoman Kelly Webb Roberts, "drivers must still be aware of others they are sharing the road with, whether it's a car, truck, motorcycle, bicycle or pedestrians."

The National Road Safety Foundation says driver error accounts for 94 percent of all fatal crashes, with speeding and driver distraction among the leading factors. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 40,990 people died on U.S. roads and highways in 2023, with hundreds of thousands of injuries and an estimated annual cost of more than \$340 billion.

To view the winning and runners-up videos, visit <https://m.shortstack.page/NLxMqT>

**About The National Road Safety Foundation, Inc. (NRSF)**, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization founded more than 60 years ago, produces traffic safety programs on distracted driving, speed and aggression, impaired driving, drowsy driving, driver proficiency, pedestrian safety and a host of other safety issues. It distributes the programs free of charge to schools, police and traffic safety advocates, community groups and individuals. It also sponsors contests to engage teens in promoting safe driving to their peers and in their communities. For more information or to download free programs, visit [www.nrsf.org](http://www.nrsf.org).