

Possible Transportation Safety Training Opportunities for your Summer Food Service Program

As an entity involved in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), you know first-hand how valuable the food services you provide each summer is to helping reduce the prevalence of food insecurity during the summer months for children and youth all across the state of Arkansas. Though summer time seems like a long time away, it will be here sooner than you know it and in addition to helping to meet the dietary needs of children and youth, many of your programs will provide exciting summer enrichment opportunities for the children in your community. For some this might involve taking field trips and exploring the richness of the Natural State.

In the childcare industry, thousands of young lives are placed in harm's way every day while being transported in a motor vehicle. Construction zones, cell phones, bad weather, road rage, 18-wheelers, drugs and alcohol, teenagers, speeders, mechanical failures – in general drivers face countless risks each time they enter upon the public streets and highways of Arkansas. Motor vehicle accidents can be averted with programs that increase risk awareness, establish better operating practices, and improve driver skills. The question is “Are you doing everything possible to ensure the safest transportation service?”

The Arkansas Transit Association in cooperation with ASU Childhood Services is eager to provide two different trainings to OST administrators and drivers in preparation for the upcoming summer programming season. Below is a description of each of the training options that will be available if there is enough expressed interest.

ACPAC: Child Care Transportation Risk Management

The purpose of this 3.0 hour training module is to focus on the comprehensive management of a transportation program. It is structured for childcare center directors/OST administrators and other responsible supervisors looking to evaluate their current transportation program compared to recommended best practices.

Child Care Driver Training

This 7.0 hour training session will provide attendees with knowledge about safe operation of a van, emergency procedures, child passenger safety, situational awareness and other key areas of passenger transportation knowledge. Participants are encouraged to bring the bus, van, etc. that they will be using with the program to the training.

If you are interested in taking either or both of these training during the spring, please email Jennifer Harris at jenharris@astate.edu with the following information by January 13th:

- Name
- Email address
- Program/Organization Name
- City
- Training title(s) that interest you (ACPAC: Child Care Transportation Risk Management, Child Care Driver Training, or both)
- Number of staff anticipated to attend each training type

If enough individuals express interest, trainings will be scheduled and notification will be made to all about these opportunities. If you transport school-age children, this is one training opportunity you can not afford to miss!