



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
transportation.ky.gov

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jim Gray
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Law Enforcement and Child Passenger Safety Experts Recognized for Excellence
in Seat Belt and Child Restraint Enforcement**

Ceremony salutes efforts to save lives on Kentucky roadways

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 20, 2025) – Today, state officials recognized nearly 100 state and local law enforcement officers, along with child passenger safety personnel, for their outstanding efforts to save the lives of drivers and passengers on Kentucky highways.

The annual Governor's Occupant Protection Enforcement Awards, held in Lexington, recognized the dedication of individuals from across Kentucky who are committed to protecting travelers through seat belt and child seat enforcement efforts.

"There is nothing more important than protecting the lives of our people and I'm proud to recognize leaders who show up every day dedicated to this important work," said Gov. Andy Beshear. "Through their efforts, more Kentuckians are safe on the road and able to return home to their family."

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) presented the awards to those with the most occupant protection citations in each agency and in each division from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Award recipients received a plaque, while the top division winners were presented with the Highway Safety All-Star Award – a commemorative baseball bat from Louisville Slugger. There are six divisions, broken down by number of officers within the agency, and a division for Kentucky State Police:

- Division I 1-10 officers
- Division II 11-25 officers
- Division III 26-50 officers
- Division IV 51-100 officers
- Division V 100+ officers
- Division VI Kentucky State Police

In addition to honoring law enforcement, KOHS also presented awards for Technician, Instructor and CPS Team of the Year.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray addressed the attendees and praised their efforts to save lives in their communities.

“The work you do for the state is critical to protecting Kentuckians, especially our most vulnerable citizens who depend on an adult to keep them safe with every ride,” said Gray. “We appreciate your dedication, professionalism and heart to save lives.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), seat belts, when worn correctly, are proven to reduce the risk of fatal injuries to front-seat occupants by 45% and by 60% in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans. Also, according to NHTSA, properly installed child restraints reduce the risk of fatal injuries by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers in passenger cars. In light trucks, SUVs and minivans, properly deployed child restraints reduce the risk of fatal injuries by 58% for infants and 59% for toddlers.

In Kentucky, 86.9% of drivers and passengers buckle up. Annually, more than half of all highway fatalities involving a vehicle reported unbelted occupants.

Child Passenger Safety Awards

Technician of the Year Awards

Name of Nominee

Tasha Higgins

Agency Name

The Nest

Instructor of the Year

Kinzie Evrard

Norton Children’s Hospital

Team of the Year

Danville Fire Department

Law Enforcement Safety Awards

Division 1

Name of Nominee

Chief Aaron Ashby

Patrol Officer Austin Begley

Patrol Officer Jason Blevins

Officer Charles Boeschenstein

Chief Billy Burton

Deputy Sheriff Brian Cloyd

Patrolman Brian J. Coleman

Agency Name

Adairville Police Department

Bellevue Police Department

Hartford Police Department

Southgate Police Department

Hawesville Police Department

Boyle County Sheriff’s Office

Calvert City Police Department

Lieutenant James Combs
Officer Cole Cordle
Sergeant Michael Garner
Sergeant John Grevious
Officer Kenneth Helton
Sergeant Johnny Holbert
Chief Brandon Hollingsworth
Deputy Evan Knipp
Patrolman Jeramie Long
Deputy Joseph Nelson
Deputy Jarred Perkins
Officer Jacob Purvis
Chief James Richardson
Deputy Cory Skaggs
Officer Jared Smith
Chief Ben Smith
Detective David Thompson
K-9 Deputy Kenneth Vincent

Stanton Police Department
City of Grayson Police
Whitesburg Police Department
Wilmore Police Department
Harlan Police Department
Mount Sterling Police Department
Pineville City Police Department
Carter County Sheriff's Office
Jackson Police Department
Taylor County Sheriff's Department
Nelson County Sheriff's Office
Owingsville Police Department
Hodgenville Police Department
LaRue County Sheriff's Office
Manchester Police Department
Millersburg Police Department
Bourbon County Sheriff's Office
Trigg County Sheriff's Office

Division 2

Name of Nominee

Sergeant Jason Arms
Deputy Josh Bailey
Officer Matthew Bullard
Patrolman Zak Cline
Lieutenant Barry Cowan
Officer Tyler Creech
Officer Michael Dennis
Deputy Nick Dues
Patrol Officer Robert Fitzpatrick
Deputy Collin Garner
Patrolman Dustin Hale
Detective Dalton Hayes
Officer Galen Hinshaw
Deputy Sheriff Peyton Jackson
Police Officer William Zack Johnson
Deputy Jacob Johnson
Sergeant Christopher Kohut
Sergeant Matt Lloyd
Patrolman Geoff Lucas
Deputy Ron Luster
Officer Michael Lyon
Officer Joe Massey
Deputy/K9 Allen May
Sergeant Tim McCoy
Deputy Michael Meece
Patrolman Jonathan Milburn
Sergeant Daniel Miller

Agency Name

Prestonsburg Police Department
Clark County Sheriff's Department
Villa Hills Police Department
Morehead Police Department
Middlesboro Police Department
Edgewood Police Department
Hillview Police Department
Calloway County Sheriff's Office
Oak Grove Police Department
Ballard Sheriff Office
Mount Vernon Police Department
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Heritage Creek Police Department
Graves County Sheriff's Office
Campbellsville Police Department
Mason County Sheriff's Office
Flatwoods Police Department
Cold Spring Police Department
Fort Thomas Police Department
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
Taylor Mill Police Department
Simpsonville Police Department
Floyd County Sheriff Office
Central City Police Department
Oldham County Sheriff's Office
Stanford Police Department
Hazard Police Department

Deputy Chad Moody	Simpson County Sheriff Office
Sergeant Nathan Nogueras	Alexandria Police Department
Patrolman Justin Prater	Pikeville Police Department
Officer Nicholas Rathbone	Cynthiana Police Department
Patrolman Erin Rice	Harrodsburg Police Department
Officer Oscar Sanchez	Elsmere Police Department
Officer Michael Seidenfaden	Lawrenceburg Police Department
Officer Jacob Smith	Dayton Police Department
Commander Steve R Taylor	Lancaster Police Department
Deputy Josh Travis	Lyon County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Dallas Wills	Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Division 3

Name of Nominee

Agency Name

Patrolman Travis Ashcraft	Winchester Police Department
Sergeant Jeffrey Childress	Glasgow Police Department
Patrol Officer Samuel "Taylor" Davidson	Paris Police Department
Patrolman Juan Davis	Maysville Police Department
Deputy Sheriff Devon Evans	Marshall County Sheriff Office
Sergeant Trevor Ford	Bullitt County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Sheriff Lukas Gabbard	Madison County Sheriff's Office
Officer Nicholas Kerney	Radcliff Police Department
Officer Cody King	Somerset Police Department
Deputy Michael Martinez	Christian County Sheriffs Office
Police Officer Lane Owen	Berea Police Department
Officer Storm Painter	Campbell County Police Department
Officer Levi Preston	Bardstown Police Department

Sergeant Aaron Rainwater
Deputy Daniel Reed
Patrolman Patrick Reynolds
Officer Jose Roman Jr.
Patrol Officer Matt Semler
Officer Seth Stewart

Officer David Watts
Sergeant Mark Wheeler
Patrol Officer David Williams
Sergeant Danny Williams
Deputy Sheriff Quintin Wright
Lieutenant Jeremy Younger

Danville Police Department
Laurel County Sheriff's Office
Newport Police Department
Mayfield Police Department
Erlanger Police Department
Franklin Police Department
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International
Airport Police
Boyd County Sheriff's Office
Oldham County Police Department
Murray Police Department
Logan County Sheriff's Office
Shelbyville Police Department

Division 4

Name of Nominee

Officer Joshua Almasi
Officer James Frint
Officer Aaron Gutermuth
Captain Kenneth Keith
Deputy Wayne Mayfield
Officer Thomas Minter
Patrol Officer Daniel Pennaman
Officer Dustin Scott
Police Officer Jindriska Skees
Patrol Officer Michael Stanaland
Officer Keith Thuline

Agency Name

University of Kentucky Police Department
Ashland Police Department
Jeffersontown Police Department
Frankfort Police Department
Warren County Sheriff's Office
Elizabethtown Police Department
Henderson Police Department
Madisonville Police Department
Richmond Police Department
City of Florence Police Department
Paducah Police Department

Division 5**Name of Nominee****Agency Name**

Patrolman Michael Davis

Owensboro Police Department

Master Police Officer John Deeb

Bowling Green Police Department

Sergeant Brandon Muravchick

Lexington Police Department

Deputy Daniel Tracy

Boone County Sheriff's Office

Division 6**Name of Nominee****Agency Name**

Trooper R Toney Allen

KSP Post 7

Trooper Daniel Armstrong

KSP Post 8

Sergeant Joseph R. Bartolotti

KSP Post 2

Trooper Curtis Button

KSP Post 5

Trooper Robert Dials

KSP CVE East

Trooper Caleb Elmore

KSP Post 14

Master Trooper Eric Hines

KSP Post 4

Trooper Chris Johnson

KSP Post 6

Trooper Joshua Jones

KSP Post 10

Officer First Class Logan Lynch

KSP CVE Central

Senior Trooper Jay Newcom

KSP Post 16

Trooper First Class Derral Redwine

KSP Post 1

Master Trooper Graham Rutherford

KSP Post 3

Trooper Josh Smith

KSP Post 15

Senior Trooper Justin Vanhook

KSP Post 11

Trooper Justin Watts

KSP Post 12

Trooper Branden Watts

KSP Post 13

Trooper First Class Joseph Weddington

KSP Post 9

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Ed. note: To view photos from the award ceremony, click [here](#).

