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Sheriff

# Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



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## Teen Driving Course

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with agencies of the Southeastern Arizona DUI Task Force, are planning to present a Teen Driving Course.

The object of this course is to educate teenaged drivers on several subjects that will help them safely operate their vehicles on the roadways. These subjects include the dangers of driving impaired or distracted, influences on driving such as driver abilities, vehicle maintenance and vehicle limitations. There will also be hands-on instruction on the basics of vehicle inspections and maintenance. This will include checking air pressure in tires, changing flat tires and checking fluid levels in vehicles. Proper adjustment of vehicle components such as mirrors and seats will also be discussed and practiced. Another portion of the course will have students driving an electric golf cart through a cone course while wearing Fatal Vision Goggles. These goggles are designed to simulate impairment.

The course will include classroom instruction and a hands-on driving course which will be conducted in a closed area such as a tarmac at the Sierra Vista Airport. Driving instruction will be conducted by Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training certified driving instructors. There will be no high speed driving during this course and there will be an instructor in the vehicles with the students when they go through the course. The driving portion will include a backing course and decision making in order to avoid obstacles.

Our goal is to offer this course once a month. The selection of students for the course is done in cooperation with the local area High Schools. Students must have a valid driver's license or learner's permit and the student, or parents if the student is a minor, must sign a liability waiver in order to enroll in the program.

We are in the process of getting local vehicle insurance companies to help sponsor the program. MADD has also signed on and is supporting the class. In order to present this program the Sheriff's Office will need to utilize County resources, such as vehicles, and related expenses such as gasoline consumption and wear and tear on the vehicles.

The Sheriff's Office is asking your support and approval of this class to further pursue our goals to make our community roads safer.