



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**  
**FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Prepared by:** Joseph Bober, Public Information Officer  
**Email:** [PIO@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:PIO@flaglersheriff.com)  
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### **FCSO Awarded \$53K Grant from FDOT to Support the Teen Driver Challenge Program**

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a \$53,000 grant from the Florida Department of Transportation to promote its Teen Driver Challenge program. This is the third year in a row that FCSO has been awarded grant funding by FDOT to support its program.

The grant will primarily be used to provide funding for overtime for FCSO Traffic Enforcement Unit deputies who lead the course as licensed commercial driving school instructors. The grant will also fund operational supply costs to host classes.

The Teen Driver Challenge is a program of the Florida Sheriffs Association created in 2007 to address the primary factors often contributing to teen driver crashes and injuries, including speeding, driving under the influence, and distracted driving. The program is a defensive driving course designed to educate students on the dangers of driving impaired, the importance of driving using their senses, and driving maneuvers and skills. It is offered in 42 counties across the state at no cost to teen drivers.

FCSO first offered the Teen Driver Challenge in 2022. Since then, 130 Flagler County students have graduated from the course.

"The risk of getting in a crash is higher for teenagers than any other age group, which is why programs like the Teen Driver Challenge are so important," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "Bringing in grant money to support this program allows us to offer many classes a year to meet the high demand so that we can reach as many teens as possible and work towards keeping our roadways and teenage drivers safe."

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The Teen Driver Challenge is offered year-round, with classes held each month. The two-day course consists of a classroom portion and a driving portion. Students are required to be Flagler County residents, hold a valid Florida driver's license or learner's permit, and provide their own vehicle to use in the course.

Class size is limited, and seats are available on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to register for an upcoming session, visit [flaglersheriff.com/public-interest/teen-driver-challenge](http://flaglersheriff.com/public-interest/teen-driver-challenge).

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