



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ROCK THE VOTE FOR TEEN-PRODUCED TRAFFIC SAFETY TV SPOTS AT WWW.ROCKTHEBELT.ORG**

*Students from Buffalo, Elk River, Plymouth, St. Paul and Willmar are Finalists*

ST. PAUL — Teen producers from Buffalo, Elk River, Plymouth, St. Paul and Willmar await their fate as Minnesota votes for the best TV commercial entered in the *2009 Buckle Up, Teens! TV Commercial Contest*. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) and AAA received 76 entries for the contest which calls on teens to produce spots that encourage their peers to buckle up. View and vote for the six finalists at [www.rockthebelt.org](http://www.rockthebelt.org) through May 18.

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers due to inexperience, seat belt non-use, distractions, speeding/risks behind the wheel, and nighttime driving. In the last three years, 149 teen motorists were killed in crashes and nearly 60 percent were not buckled up.

The six *Buckle Up, Teens!* finalists are competing for a \$1,000 first-place prize, and a broadcast premiere of their spot this summer; \$600 for second place; \$400 for third. Prizes donated by AAA:

Title: **“A Brother’s Loss”**

Producers: Michael Bonde with Jacob Bonde, Ryan Bonde  
School: Buffalo High School, Buffalo

Title: **“Buckle Up, Save a Life”**

Producers: Neil Gleason with Shane Anderson, Michael Bonde, Megan Enmark, Jensen Maiden, Bekah Jacobson, Dani Shepard  
School: Buffalo High School, Buffalo

Title: **“Buckle Up, Teens!”**

Producers: Juliet Farmer with Tereza Avila, Caitlyn Conway, Claire Cunningham, Joe Gherity, Claire Godfrey, Zoe Morgan, Joe Nelson, Lutia Von Drasell  
School: Cretin-Derham Hall, St. Paul

Title: **“For Those You Love”**

Producers: Dylan Borger with Ryan Grams, Adrian Rink  
School: Home schooled, Elk River

Title: **“Nothing Can Replace a Life”**

Producer: Matt Ferro  
School: Wayzata High School, Plymouth

Title: **“When the Time Is Right, Buckle Up”**

Producers: Mitchell Konieczny with Carrie Boike, Tom Chester, Mitch Fader, Kylen Vossen  
School: Willmar Senior High School, Willmar

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