

Initiatives in Traffic Volunteer Activities

Class where People of All Ages Learn Traffic Safety in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture

Four years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, and the volume of traffic on the national roads and the main arterial roads has increased with the progress of the restoration work. Accordingly there is concern over the occurrence of major traffic accidents, so traffic safety classes were held for people of all ages at the Ofunato Driving School, with the object of ensuring safety for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

These traffic safety classes are planned and operated by an executive committee consisting of members from the Ofunato City Traffic Guidance Force, Ofunato City Federation of Old Folks' Clubs, Ofunato City Association of Mothers for Traffic Safety, and etc. The participants relearn through practice the traffic rules and traffic manners through recognizing traffic safety actions for pedestrians, cyclists, and automobile drivers using experience of vehicle dead angles and various equipment, and witnessing "scared straight" using stuntmen, etc.



Experience of vehicle dead angles



Scared straight

[Details of the regular main activities]

In addition, each of the volunteer groups regularly carries out the following activities.

《Ofunato City Traffic Guidance Force》

- Traffic instructions for elementary school children going to and from school, and traffic safety lessons for children starting schools
- Public education activities through traffic safety campaigns and prefectural residents' traffic safety campaigns
- Nighttime and dusk street side guidance, and activities to promote use of seatbelts and turning on lights early

《Ofunato City Federation of Old Folks' Clubs》

- Activities to inform members of old folks' clubs about traffic accidents and to raise their attention in this regard
- Holding traffic safety training meetings
- Activities to look after elementary school children going to and from school

《Ofunato City Association of Mothers for Traffic Safety》

- Distribution of traffic safety education items to children starting school
- Activities to look after children during the period of traveling to and from school

Bicycle Traffic Safety Class in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture

At the Izumi-ku Sendai Association of Mothers for Traffic Safety, as a result of integration of two local elementary schools, the range over which the children had to travel expanded, so "bicycle traffic safety classes" were held at the school, and school events were held for all middle to higher grades children. These traffic volunteer activities were carried out with the cooperation from the Police, traffic safety associations, and bicycle sales shops. On the previous day the children were asked to bring 40 bicycles to school,

and early on the day maintenance was carried out by persons from bicycle sales shops. After receiving instruction from police officers regarding the points to note when crossing at a crossroads, or turning left or right, the children carried out practice for 2 hours on an artificial road prepared on the school grounds. The Association of Mothers was greatly encouraged by the letters on their impressions written by the children at a later date, and this year also the bicycle class was held 3 times.



Opening ceremony of the bicycle traffic safety class



Receiving instruction on the methods of passing through crossroads

[Details of the regular main activities]

In addition the Izumi-ku Sendai Association of Mothers for Traffic Safety carries out the following activities day-to-day.

- Distribution of traffic safety goods and pamphlets associated with the project to visit the elderly at their homes
- Traffic safety guidance on the routes to school on the first day of going to school after spring, summer, and winter holidays
- Holding traffic safety classes for the elderly at opportunities such as local gatherings, etc.

Activities to promote wearing reflective materials in which reflective thread is incorporated into fashion goods

In order to increase the percentage of elderly wearing reflective materials, the Federation of Shiga Prefecture Traffic Safety Women's Associations carries out activities to promote wearing reflective materials by incorporating reflective thread into fashion goods.

The Association in each district holds traffic safety fashion classes using reflective thread, and by holding a fashion competition with the goods produced, the effect is produced of making the reflective thread fashion goods appeal to the residents of the prefecture

Clothing and smaller fashion items that incorporate reflective thread have been favorably evaluated because the reflective material can be freely worn without being conspicuous, but is expected to have the effect of preventing traffic accidents at nighttime.



Reflective thread traffic safety fashion class



Fashion competition using reflective thread

[Details of the regular main activities]

In addition, the Federation of Shiga Prefecture Traffic Safety Women's Associations carries out the following activities day-to-day.

- Traffic safety instruction through the project to visit the elderly at their homes, etc.
- Holding "mother and child bicycle and family car classes" for women and children, and "child seat lecture meetings" for the guardians of children
- Holding 3 generation exchange events regarding traffic safety at gatherings for children, parents, the elderly, etc.