

Pace Setters for Smart Driving

applies to the Safe-Teen administrator in his area, signs the roll, and receives a membership card and a bumper strip in official Safe-Teen red-and-black that glows in the dark. If there is no local organization, a letter to Judge Cook will bring advice on how to become a Safe-Teen and get others interested in the program.

The only fee is ten cents to cover the cost of the bumper strip, car check sheet, and instructions. Even this is unnecessary where the program is underwritten by some local group.

The program is supported by civic, service, business, and fraternal groups; high schools and safety councils. Commercialization isn't tolerated.

If a Safe-Teen is cited for a hazardous driving violation, the presiding judge picks up his bumper strip and suspends his membership. Later he can reapply for membership.

Social pressures play an important part in promoting safety through Safe-Teens. There is a desire by poor drivers who are nonmembers to improve their highway habits so they can join; otherwise they face becoming social outcasts.

Judge Cook tells of a young man who walked into her office and said, "I am nearly 20 years old. I have fought your Safe-Teens and made fun of

them. Now I want to join. Am I too old now?"

"You can join," Judge Cook replied. "Do you mind telling me why the sudden change?"

"I have a girl friend. Her mother won't let her go riding with me until I prove I'm a Safe-Teen. I always felt the Safe-Teen sticker was a sign calling to the cops: 'Come and get me.' I know differently now."

In Judge Cook's files are thousands of letters.

"I am nine years old," reads one. "I want to be a Safe-Teen driver. I don't drive now, and can't until I am 16. Do you think the program will last that long, or should I sign up now so I will have my sticker when I am old enough to drive?"

Judge Cook sent the boy a Safe-Teen sticker. "Place it like a pennant above your bed, where it will always remind you of the necessity for safe driving," she told him. "That is what my son did. He had to wait more than a year before he could become a Safe-Teen!"

"The return on our investment will be a whooping big figure if we just save the life of one driver," says Judge Cook. Indeed, nation-wide reports coming to the Beaverton headquarters reveal that not one car driven by a Safe-Teener has been involved in a fatal accident for three years!



Symbol of acceptance in group is Safe-Teen sticker. More than 75,000 teen-agers proudly display them.

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