



1115 Crystal Lake Road  
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

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## NEWS RELEASE

Main: 847-658-5676  
Fax: 847-960-7552  
[www.lith.org/police](http://www.lith.org/police)  
[communityrelations@lith.org](mailto:communityrelations@lith.org)

Date: September 15, 2023  
Department: Police Department  
Contact Name: Public Information Officer Amanda Schmitt  
Phone Number: 847-658-5676  
Fax Number: 847-960-7552

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### **September 17 – 23 is Child Passenger Safety Week**

**Lake in the Hills, IL** –Lake in the Hills Police Department will be stepping up efforts to enforce both child and occupant restraint systems in vehicles between September 15 – 30 for the Highway Traffic Safety Administration Child Passenger Safety Week. The police department’s aim is to help protect our youngest passengers by ensuring compliance with child safety restraint systems.

“Child Passenger Safety Week serves as a poignant reminder of the critical role proper child safety restraints play in safeguarding child while traveling on our roadways,” said Officer Amanda Schmitt, the Public Information Officer for the Lake in the Hills Police Department. “As public servants who deeply care about our community’s safety, we are committed to taking proactive measures to reduce injuries and fatalities among child passengers.”

According to NHTSA, more than a third of children 12 and younger who died in crashes in 2021 in cars, pickups, vans and SUVs were unbuckled. The Lake in the Hills Police Department reminds parents and child caregivers; never let children ride unbuckled in a vehicle, not even on a short trip.

The Lake in the Hills Police Department will also be focusing on unrestrained vehicle occupants during this campaign. According to NHTSA, seat belt data from 2021 show that unrestrained occupant deaths currently account for 50% of deaths. The same data from 2021 shows seat belt use is at 90.4%. Encouragingly, NHTSA reported in 2022 seat belt usage has further increased to 91.6%.

The campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from NHTSA administered by IDOT.

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**Any criminal or traffic complaint(s) that have been filed against any individual(s) named herein are only an accusation. All defendant(s) are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. All inquiries regarding this news release are to be directed to the Public Information Officer at 847-658-5676 or [communityrelations@lith.org](mailto:communityrelations@lith.org) unless otherwise noted.**