



1115 Crystal Lake Road  
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

## NEWS RELEASE

Main: 847-658-5676  
Fax: 847- 960-7552  
www.lith.org/police  
communityrelations@lith.org

Date: September 18, 2024  
Department: Police Department  
Contact Name: Public Information Officer Amanda Johnson  
Phone Number: 847-658-5676  
Fax Number: 847-960-7552

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### September 15 – 21 is Child Passenger Safety Week

**Lake in the Hills, IL** – The Lake in the Hills Police Department announced it is partnering with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for Child Passenger Safety Week, which runs Sept. 15-21, to help ensure the safety of young children traveling in our community. The police department will be stepping up efforts to enforce both child and occupant restraint systems in vehicles. The department’s goal is to help protect our youngest passengers by ensuring compliance with child safety restraint systems.

“Unfortunately, many parents are overconfident about their car seats,” said Officer Amanda Johnson, Public Information Officer for the Lake in the Hills Police Department. “They believe they are protecting their kids, but nearly half of all car seats are either the wrong seat for the child’s age and size or installed incorrectly. That puts children at risk. Having a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician check your child’s seat can help ensure their safety and give you peace of mind.”

According to NHTSA, motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children. Every day in 2022, an average of three children 14 and younger were killed in crashes, and another 429 were injured. NHTSA also reports that 39% of children 14 and younger who died in crashes in 2022 in cars, pickups, vans and SUVs were unbuckled. What’s more, 52% of child passengers 14 and younger killed in pickup trucks in 2022 were unrestrained – more than any other vehicle category. The takeaway? Bigger vehicles don’t protect child passengers, but car seats, booster seats and seat belts do.

When it comes to child passengers, there is a right seat for every age and developmental stage, from infants to teens. Whether it’s a rear-facing car seat, a forward-facing car seat installed with a tether, a booster seat or a seat belt, a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician can put parents’ minds at ease by discussing correct car seat selection and showing them how to correctly install that seat in their vehicle. Children should stay in each seat and position until they outgrow those limits, and it’s important for all children under 13 to ride in the back seat. To find a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician to help parents and caregivers, visit <https://bit.ly/FindCPSTech>.

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.**