



Cruz the Traffic Safety Car

Presented by Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office

For Educators:

Thank you for your interest in Cruz the Safety Car! Cruz is a comprehensive safety tool for children in Grades PreK-2. Cruz is a three-foot-tall, remote-controlled, talking robotic car. Cruz is ready to roll and available to teach your students about traffic safety at any time.

Topics include:

Passenger Safety
Pedestrian Safety
School Bus Safety

Safe Places to Play
Safety on Wheels

- Cruz's setup takes approximately 20 minutes, and the presentation lasts around 30 minutes. Scripts can be customized to your school or organization, addressing traffic safety issues that would be appropriate for your group. For example, if you have a crossing guard in front of your school and would like to emphasize that students follow all directions of the guard, we can make sure that's covered.
- Cruz's operator will need to be out of view of students but will need to see Cruz and the first row of children at all times. A location in the back of a room is best, with perhaps a door or area that keeps the person "hidden." Doors with a small window are ideal. If you're unsure about the appropriateness of your space, please reach out, we can usually make something work.
- Cruz needs an adult buddy who will stand with Cruz in front of the children, reading the part of "facilitator" on the script provided. A person from your organization or school with an outgoing personality, whom the children know and respect, will help make the presentation fun and memorable. If you don't have anyone available to work with Cruz, a MHSO staff member may be able take this role.

- Cruz is most effective with school children between ages 4-7 years old.
- Please keep groups under 50. This enables Cruz to move around freely, address questions, and make the experience more personal for the children. Multiple presentations can be done if your group size is too large with a maximum of three presentations per location.
- Cruz needs to be set up before bringing students into the presentation area. This allows for the element of surprise.
- When students enter the area, Cruz will be parked. Have your students sit 6-10 feet away from Cruz. This way Cruz will be able to move around the area safely.
- The facilitator and children should speak directly to Cruz. Cruz's operator will be wearing a headset allowing them to hear and respond to the facilitator and the children.
- A printable safety pledge is also provided for teachers to distribute to students to sign and show their parents.

To schedule Cruz, please complete the resource form at

<https://zerodeathsmd.gov/resources/resource-form/>.

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For Parents:

Hello! Today your student(s) met Cruz. Cruz is a comprehensive safety tool for children in grades PreK–2. grade. Cruz is a three-foot-tall, remote-controlled, talking robotic car.

Topics include:

Passenger Safety
Pedestrian Safety
School Bus Safety

Safe Places to Play
Safety on Wheels

Cruz encouraged your student(s) to share what they learned about traffic safety with a friend or family member. We encourage you to continue the safety dialogue at home and make sure everyone practices safe behaviors.

Safety is for all ages!

