

March 2, 2009

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Children and their parents can learn a lot and have fun too during the Saturday, March 28, Public Safety Fair hosted by the Burleson Police Department.

The police department is hosting the annual fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Gateway Station Shopping Center (on the I-35W service road between McAlister Road and Alsbury Boulevard). The police department's Citizens on Patrol members are coordinating the family-oriented event.

The safety fair is free and geared toward heightening awareness of the services available to the citizens of Burleson. This year, the organizers have included two contests, a safety poster contest for the elementary school students and a bicycle rodeo.

The safety posters have to focus on something related to safety (police, fire, 9-1-1 or ambulance). Entrants must be between five and 12 years old. A winner will be announced from each of the Burleson Independent School District's nine elementary campuses, then a grand prize winner will be announced. The grand prize winner will have his/her poster displayed at the fair and then at Burleson City Hall.

The deadline to turn in posters is Friday, March 13. The posters may be turned in at the Burleson Police Department at 225 W. Renfro St. or Fire Station #1 at 828 S.W. Alsbury Blvd., between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Posters will be judged on originality, theme, and art.

The bicycle rodeo is for children between eight and 13 years of age. Riders must wear a helmet and parents must be present. The competition starts at noon. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded.

Other highlights of the Public Safety Fair include a SWAT obstacle course and pictures of children dressed in SWAT gear; the police department's crisis negotiation team, the sworn officer bicycle patrol and the police department's traffic unit; the fire marshal's Patches and Pumper, the robotic Dalmatian dog who drives his own fire truck; an extrication demonstration by Burleson firefighters (11 a.m. and 1 p.m.); and vehicle identification number (VIN) etching services by the Tarrant County Auto Theft Task Force. Burleson Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association members are also hosting a booth during the four hours of fun. Agencies from around the Metroplex are expected to participate.

For more information about the safety fair, call the Burleson Police Department at 817-447-5300, ext. 339. For more information about this release, call the public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.