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## **NDDOT brings Ford “Driving Skills for Life” event to Fargo**

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) applied for a grant from the Ford Motor Company and the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA) to bring one of the nation's most comprehensive teen driver safety programs, Ford “Driving Skills for Life,” to North Dakota.

In two sessions, a total of 65 drivers, ranging in age from 14 to 18 years old, participated in the full-day event on Saturday, June 9. The program allowed the teenagers to experience different traffic safety activities such as:

- A ride and drive exercise conducted by the Cass County Sheriff's Department's Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course (EVOC) instructors. Participants had the opportunity to both ride and drive through the established driving course while replicating scenarios imitating distracted driving and impaired driving.
- Interactive learning experiences with the “Rollover Simulator,” a “Seat Belt Convincer,” a “Simulated Impaired DrivINg Experience (SIDNE),” a “Drive Square Driving Simulator” for in-vehicle driver training, and a computer-based driving simulator.
- A “Fatal Reflections” demonstration which is a software program that provided an opportunity for participants to consider the real ramifications of poor driving decisions.

“The Ford Driving Skills for Life Program is a great way for young drivers to experience various driving conditions and situations while remaining in a controlled environment,” said NDDOT Safety Division Director Mark Nelson. “Giving young drivers this type of training can only lead to better driving habits and safer roadways in North Dakota.”

The event was sponsored by the NDDOT in partnership with North Dakota National Guard, Cass County Sheriff's Department and Luther Family Ford of Fargo.

For more information on Ford “Driving Skills for Life,” visit [www.drivingskillsforlife.com](http://www.drivingskillsforlife.com).

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