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### Seminole County Sheriff's Office Crossing Guard Program named top in state

Seminole Co. Fla., (Feb. 2) - The Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) today announced the selection of its School Crossing Guard Program as the 2017 Florida School Crossing Guard Program of the Year by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The SCSO Program took home top honors for their exceptional performance and proactive community outreach programs. The Program was recognized by FDOT officials at an awards banquet held this morning. This is the sixth time that SCSO has received this honor.

The crossing guard program was recognized for their participation in numerous community events including bike rodeos, school safety days, and educational presentations. Carl's Safety Campaign, a program to teach safe pedestrian and biking skills, was presented at Seminole County elementary schools, reaching thousands of students and faculty. Guards also participated in monthly sign-waving campaigns to educate motorists about driving safely in school zones. Additionally, the crossing guard program provided warm clothing to children in need, visited the elderly during the holidays to sing Christmas carols, and distributed more than 600 bicycle helmets to children who did not have one or could not afford one.

Also honored at today's banquet was Laura Fow, who was named SCSO School Crossing Guard of the Year. Laura is assigned to Keeth Elementary and Indian Trails Middle School and was recognized for always going above and beyond for the community she serves. Additionally, FDOT named Rob Beltzer as the recipient of their "Extra Mile Award" for his unique ability to communicate with the students he serves at South Seminole Middle School.

The SCSO Program has approximately 124 crossing guards who cover 190 posts and safely cross over 4,000 children every day throughout the county.

The FDOT certifies school crossing guard trainers statewide and each year recognizes the accomplishments of programs and guards across the state. The first Friday of each February is recognized as the state's Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.

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