



Young riders to learn about school bus safety

For Immediate Release, August 14, 2023:

Kindergarten and grade one students throughout Central Alberta, and their parents, will have the opportunity to learn more about safely riding the bus, at the annual First Rider Event. The program is free to attend and based in five Central Alberta communities.

Coordinators from the transportation departments of five school divisions have worked together to create and will run the event together. Chinook's Edge, Red Deer Public, Red Deer Catholic, Wolf Creek and Wild Rose School Divisions are involved, along with Prairie Bus Lines.

Participating children will start by watching a video of Winnie-the-Pooh as he rides a school bus for the first time. They will then learn about safety priorities at the bus stop, conduct a safety evacuation and discover the 'danger zone' around the bus where incidents are most likely to occur. Finally, children and their parents hop on a school bus for a 10 minute ride, and learn about loading and exiting the bus correctly.

The First Rider program has been successful each year since it began in 2009, giving young people a better understanding of safety just in time for school start-up!

First Rider will be offered from 3:00 to 7:00 pm on the following dates and locations:

Red Deer & area - August 15

École Secondaire Notre Dame High School parking lot

Olds & area - August 16

École Deer Meadow School parking lot

Lacombe & area - August 17

Gary Moe Sportsplex

Rocky Mountain House & area - August 23

West Central High School / St. Dominic High School

Drayton Valley & area - August 24

Frank Maddock High School

For more information, please see the First Rider brochure, [here](#).