



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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### Media Release

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**From:** Corporal Wendy McGinnis  
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

**Re:** Battle of the Belts

**Date:** January 25, 2012

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The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is holding its 1st Annual Battle of the Belts competition with students from all Hernando County High Schools. The purpose of the competition is to raise awareness about seat belt safety with teen drivers. The competition consists of an "undercover" seatbelt survey, video display, poster contest, and student/parent contracts.

Deputies will be visiting Hernando High School on January 26, 2012 at approximately 9:00 a.m. An actual crashed vehicle will be on display as a reminder for students to wear their seatbelts. The Florida Highway Patrol will have their "Roll Over" simulator vehicle at the campus to demonstrate the effects of not wearing a safety belt. An awareness video will be shown to all Hernando High School students throughout the day.

Deputy James Dean will be in costume as the Grim Reaper and will be selecting students to participate as a fictitious a vehicle crash victim. The selected students will wear a black t-shirt identifying them as a crash victim throughout the day. These selected students will walk the halls and be in class. To simulate the loss of a friend, they will not be able to communicate with their fellow students.

Every student has been asked to sign a contract with their parents promising to wear their seatbelts anytime they are in a vehicle, whether as a passenger or a driver. Throughout the rest of the week, students will also randomly receive rewards when they are observed wearing their seatbelts.

This will be the final day of the competition between all Hernando County High Schools. The results of the competition will be announced on Friday.