

Why become a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST)?

You can join thousands of other nationally certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians help parents and caregivers properly secure their children in the correct restraint with hands-on help or quality presentations.

Have you heard about events where folks get one-on-one personalized instruction on how to properly use their child's car seat? Join the team of over 40,000 nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) and be that community advocate or resource in your community!

As a CPS technician, you will put your knowledge to work through a variety of activities, including community presentations and/or child safety seat checks where parents and caregivers receive education and hands-on assistance with the proper use of child restraint systems and seat belts. A majority of parents still misuse their child restraints and need help to get it right.

During the extensive course, (developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, certified through Safe Kids Worldwide and monitored by the Child Passenger Safety Board) you will learn about crash dynamics, injury prevention strategies, child restraint selection and installation and vehicle occupant protection. The course, generally held over four to five days, is taught through a combination of hands-on activities, lectures and discussion with a wide variety of child restraint and vehicle belt systems. Quick paced and interactive, be ready to dive right in and learn.

The question about liability is frequently asked and may drive someone into the course. Provided a CPST practices within the scope of their certification and uses a well-designed checklist with appropriate documentation, the exposure to liability is very, very small. In the unlikely event an incident should occur, the CPST community and national organizations stand ready to help. As far as we know, and with well over 1 million seats checks, there have been no lawsuits. Additionally, some states provide statutory immunity, in certain circumstances, to a CPST when installing, adjusting or educating about child safety seats.

In addition, there is a high level of professionalism associated with certification and acknowledgement of expertise. The specialized problem solving and emphasis on community education during the course serves a community well. **The risk to kids is too great not to get specially trained and certified and then use this to serve the caregivers in your community.**

Courses are offered across the country by Certified Instructors. If you are interested in joining over 40,000 technicians in being a resource for your community, attend a national CPS Certification course. To see what courses are available in your neighborhood, go to <http://cert.safekids.org> and click on the FIND A COURSE button on the right.



Why are we CPS technicians?

"I am a CPS Tech because every day I can make a difference in helping save the life of a child and the other occupants in the vehicle..."

I went to the CPST class kicking and screaming because it was a 5 day course. I am so glad I persevered."

-J. Baker

"It was a recent forced job requirement....that turned into one of the best things that I've ever done! It is now my passion and love every minute of this responsibility I am taking and providing to the community!!!

Possibilities are endless!!!!

- C. Jenewein

"I am a CPST because I am a Public Health Nurse. While I am TEACHING families to keep their kids safe, I am ASSESSING other psychosocial needs and REFERRING to other services. Promote, Prevent, Protect. This is Public Health! And because I am a mom of 4 kids who feels that all kids deserve a chance to be safe.

- C. Cherry

"When the car is driving away with a child safely and correctly secured makes me feel that there is hope for preventing injuries, one child at a time."

- S. Chambers

"Nothing has been more rewarding than making a difference!

-D. Bland

"If I save just one life, I've done my job while here on earth! Children can't protect themselves. We have to take care of their future."

- A. Pinkerton

"To save a life. Once you receive a call from a client crying, from the crash scene, thanking you for helping her make her children safe because they were just hit head on by a semi and the children walked away, you will understand why I do what I do."

- H. Harper-Berard

Samples of reasons posted on www.facebook.com/CPScert