



Louisiana Highway Safety Commission News Release October 10, 2026

Pedestrian Safety the ‘main goal’ of third annual “1 Million Steps 2 Safety” 5K

Baton Rouge – Today, LHSC, in partnership with Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana State Troopers Association, and many more hosted the third annual “1 Million Steps 2 Safety” 5K run/walk at the Louisiana State Police Headquarters in Baton Rouge.

Pedestrian safety remains a critical issue in our communities across the State of Louisiana. According to data from the LSU Center of Analytics and Research in Transportation Safety (CARTS), 161 pedestrians were killed in Louisiana crashes in 2025.

“Every day, motorists across Louisiana share our roadways with pedestrians, and sadly, pedestrian-related fatalities continue to account for far too many lives lost each year. Education and awareness are critical to improving pedestrian safety, and we want to do our part to remind everyone that safety on our roadways is a shared responsibility,” Louisiana State Police Superintendent Col. Frank J. Besson said. “The Department of Public Safety is proud to host the 1 Million Steps 2 Safety 5K for the third year, bringing our communities together to promote awareness and help make Louisiana’s roadways safer for everyone.”

Speakers at this year’s 5K included Louisiana State Police Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Robert A. Burns II, Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development Glenn Ledet, and U.S. Olympians Danielle Scott-Arruda and Hollis Conway.

“1 Million Steps to Safety” began during the pandemic as a virtual event, organized by LHSC Occupant Protection and Engagement Coordinator Chanita Vazquez. Participants were encouraged to track their steps online during the October’s Pedestrian Safety Month campaign. It has grown to attract nearly 200 runners and walkers to come together for the cause each year.

Participants received a T-shirt and a finisher medal for crossing the finish line. Winners in multiple age categories received additional trophies. Culture Creole Seasoning, Mr. Ferro Isom, and the Police and Fireman’s Insurance Association participated in a jambalaya cook-off. Mr. Ferro Isom was this year’s winner. Thanks to LHSC Chairman James C. “Jay” O’Quinn, Louisiana First Morning Anchor Reggi Marion, Danielle Scott, and Aetna Representative Floyd Hoodah for judging.

“A five-year average tells us that over 165 pedestrians have been killed on Louisiana roadways each year,” LHSC Executive Director and Governor’s Representative of Highway Safety Lisa Freeman said. “Our main goal with the 5K is to shine a light on pedestrian safety awareness.”

Winners of the 5K in each category are as follows:

- Top Male Finishers
 - 1st – Justin Abadie (15:45.88)
 - 2nd – Blaize Kiger (16:39.956)
 - 3rd – Chase Granier (16:45.56)
- Top Female Finishers
 - 1st – Kendal Perkins (23:18.88)
 - 2nd – Lindsey Wesley (25:03.128)
 - 3rd – Madison Stewart (25:04.060)

LHSC would like to thank Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Troopers Charities, Aetna, Sheriff James Polhmann, Boh Bros. Construction, Capital City Produce, Ace Enterprises, Varsity Sports, Police and Fireman’s Insurance Association, and Lamar Advertising for contributing. Thanks to Baton Rouge Physical Therapy for the pre-run stretch.

Also, thanks to City Year, United Way, Inspiration Leaders Keystone Club, Sports Girls Club, and Junior League of Baton Rouge for helping with volunteers.

This year’s resource fair exhibitors included: Metro Health, Ochsner Health, Ochsner Smoking Cessation, Wellcare, Fathers on a Mission, Aetna Medicare, Aetna Better Health of Louisiana, Rogers Health & Recovery Services LLC, Start Corporation, EBRP Mosquito and Rodent Control, Mary Bird Perkins (Prevention on the Go), Acadian Ambulance Service, CareSouth, Open Health Care Clinic, Top-Notch Behavioral Healthcare Services LLC, Capital Area Human Services, EBRPL Bookmobile, United Way, Destination Zero Deaths, and La Voz de la Comunidad Foundation.

Photo Attribution – Greg Fischer, LHSC

Caption: LHSC, Louisiana State Police, and Louisiana State Troopers Association staff that helped make this year's 1 Million Steps 2 Safety 5K possible.



Gregory Fischer

Public Information Officer

DPS – Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

Ph: 225-925-7858

Mobile: 225-489-1969

Gregory.Fischer@la.gov