



photo: Michael Bene

Survival of the Fittest

by Chris Carollo

As a parent of a newly minted teenage driver, the statistic that teen drivers aged 16 to 19 are nearly 3 times more likely to be in a fatal crash than drivers aged 20 and older scares me. Thankfully, programs like Tire Rack's Street Survival are available to help teach young drivers how to respond to extreme conditions while driving.

As soon as PCA-C announced the event, I knew I wanted to have my son attend and I wanted to volunteer to help other new drivers. On a beautiful mid-April Saturday, we assembled at Autobahn Country Club for the class. Approximately 20 students were in attendance with over 30 volunteers.



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volunteers served as both in-car instructors and helpful hands on the course providing direction and shagging fallen course cones.

The day started in the classroom and then we split into two groups, alternating between the classroom and course all day. The students were in the cars that they normally drive with an instructor in the passenger seat for the whole day helping them through the exercises. There was a

wide variety of vehicles from Accords and Altimas to Foresters and Highlanders.

They focused on lane changes, emergency braking, wet skid pad, and slalom to understand how the car handles AND how they, as the driver, should respond. It was amazing to see all the students' confidence grow as the day progressed. Special thanks to David Bowers for instructing my son Jon!



continued

After lunch, there was a demonstration of the power of an airbag.¹ Sitting on the ground, an airbag was detonated shooting the water bottle that was placed on top sky high. A great reminder to all those in attendance to not rest your feet on the dashboard.

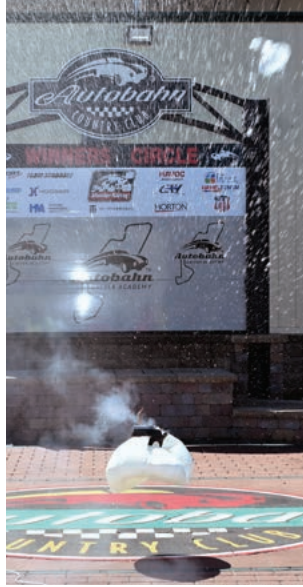


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All of the students left with smiles on their faces and so did the instructors. Let's keep doing our part in keeping our roads safe and helping the next generation of drivers! 🏆



¹ Special thanks to O'Hare Auto Body for providing the airbag used in the demonstration.

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