

# **Back to School Youth Preparedness Projects**

## **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**

### **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT**

Good afternoon everybody and thank you for joining FEMA's community preparedness webinar series. Today's topic is Back to School Youth Preparedness Projects. A few technical considerations to get out of the way before we begin; the volume for this webinar will be played through your computer speakers, so please ensure your volume is turned up so you may hear the proceedings sufficiently. This webinar is free and open to the public. We will be going through our presentations first and we will be taking questions after the presentation are concluded. This webinar will be recorded and will be posted to the Citizen Corps website. If you look to your left you will see the web URL where you can find the recording and along with the recording will be a copy of the presentation and a transcript. With that, I would like to turn it over to Ms. Aretha Carter, from the Ready Campaign to kick us off.

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Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for joining our National Preparedness Call and I would like to start off by saying how important national preparedness is for all of our stakeholders and we want to provide you with ideas that you can do, not only this September, but going beyond September. As well as making those ideas a reality. So today's webinar is basically a follow-up to both of our presentations back in June and as well as July. Back in June we launched National Preparedness Month 2012 and our speakers from Arizona and New York City together gave a few of the easy ways you, and your organization, businesses or place of work could fulfill the pledge to prepare and become better prepared for disasters from here and going forward. [Indiscernible audio] And ideas for service projects, activities and events that you can recognize in your own communities this September that will help make them better prepared for disasters. So this month, today our speakers will discuss ideas for preparing schools, children and youth in your communities with creative projects or events during National Preparedness Month this September and again beyond September.

Engaging with youth in schools and disaster preparedness is a major priority. Children comprise more than 25% of the population of the United States. They can effectively spread messages about preparedness to their adult family members, especially mom and dad. The youth are always empowered by participating in youth preparedness programs and functionally are more confident and exhibit less anxiety during emergency. We are fortunate to have guest speakers today to describe excellent ways of getting youth in schools involved, just in time for back to school season. Our first guest speaker is Joe McKenna, Research Specialist for Texas School Safety Center and our second featured guest speaker will be Lisa Janak Newman, Public Information Officer for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. I will turn this over now to Joe, and we will get started here.

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Good afternoon. I would like to first thank FEMA, Ready.gov and all of the other individuals that invited me to speak at the webinar this afternoon. And I would like to say good afternoon to the participants and thank you for joining us. I hope I am able to give you more ideas on getting

our youth prepared and our communities more prepared. Once again, I am Joe McKenna a research specialist with the Texas School Safety Center. We are located at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Next slide please. I am going to start off by explaining a little about what the Texas School Safety Center is and what the goals are and what our role in youth preparedness. We are a research-based center, like I said located at Texas State University based in San Marcos, Texas. We train schools, junior colleges and communities in areas such as bullying, cyber bullying, dating violence and a variety of safety and security and preparedness issues. We achieve these goals like I said by training, we also conduct research in all these areas and we provide technical assistance over the phone and both in person when requested. Our role specifically in youth preparedness comes from the Governor's Texas homeland security strategic plans for 2010 – 2015. We are charged with objective 2.4.5 and that specifically reads *to incorporate and implement Citizen Corps programs through training and outreach in schools to emphasize student and staff preparedness and safety.*

The Center has developed and hosted now for the past two years a youth preparedness camp. And I'm going to explain a little about what we do at the camp and go into some activities that we can use to prepare our youth in the school setting. So, like I said, we started our camp in 2011, we named it the Texas 27 Pilot Project. We brought 27 youth from around the state to a week-long emergency preparedness camp held at Shreiner University in Kerryville, Texas. The camp touched on things such as CERT training, action planning, and leadership. We saw such a success and drive from these youth when they went back to their communities to carry out their action plans and to be really being involved in their communities. We saw this on Facebook, twitter. They all got together and would share their ideas and what they were doing and motivate each other. This led on to us continuing our camp this year. We call it the Texas 30 this year. We provided scholarship to 30 youth. This year we brought them in teams of 10, we had nine youth and one adult sponsor. And again we held it at Shreiner University in Kerryville, Texas. The three groups came and they received a full 20 hour basic CERT certification. They each within their groups discussed and implemented action plans that they would bring back to their community and implement. I have since kept in touch with those three groups and they are making great progress on their action plan. And once again, I see that they are carrying on via Facebook and other social media sites talking about their experiences, their success, and how great camp was, and how happy they are to be a major role in their community and to increase preparedness not just for their schools, but for their entire communities.

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Camp is our major event we host every summer that is targeted to youth preparedness but since we have developed a list of activities that we are giving to schools and communities that reach out to us, look for guidance and how they can get their youth involved in emergency preparedness. So we have created a list of activities that encourages youth to be engaged, to be an active role in their schools and their communities. In the first one that we are really focused on, is building the emergency preparedness kit. Sometimes called a Go-kit and having these in your classroom. As adults, we encourage each other to not only have these at home, but also at work where we spend a significant amount of time. The Center figures that kids should have access to them when they are at school because they spend the majority of their day at school. It is not just enough to have the teacher or the school administration put together these Go-kits. You want to include the youth in this process; allow them to see what goes into a kit, why it is useful, and when it can be used. A short in class activity would be to build an emergency

preparedness kit. First gather various objects that you want to include in a Go-kit such as a flashlight, medical supplies, food and water. You can get these donated or ask each student to bring one in. Or there are various ways of getting these products. And spread them out on the table and let the youth explore them. Let them hold a flashlight and see the different medical supplies and see the amount of food and water that go in to the kit. Allow them to select items that they want to include in their Go-kit for their classroom. This is going to be there Go-kits. And to further that, once it is complete and they select the items that they want you can either use plastic bags or plastic tubs, any sort of container would work fine. Let them decorate it, make it their own. Put their names on that and let them take ownership of it. This can be scalable on multiple levels. You can include items that might tempt kids to want to put them in such as video games or other things that might not need to be included in the kit but get them thinking that they only have limited space and in an emergency they might not have access to everything they like. And I would revisit the kit maybe once a month, once every couple of weeks and see if the youth have come up with any other ideas of things that they think should be added or things should be removed. This activity just get them thinking about things that need to be in the kit and you can expand from there explaining when the kit should be used, why certain objects are included in the kit and then why certain objects are left out.

The next one is one of my favorite, the scavenger hunt. This gets the kids up and moving. This can include the whole school or the class, this is very scalable, this can be done in a day, can be done over the course of a week, it can be in a preparedness month. Set up clues around the school with different administrators, teachers and different classrooms and you can hide them throughout the school and have the youth go throughout the school and find these objects that belong in their Go-kit. When it is complete they will have a complete Go-kit for the classroom. You can add an extra component in where they get to a certain point like the principal they have to deliver some information; they have to explain the fire drill procedure. A lot of these activities by design are built to be scalable and built to be added on to in the future. But the scavenger hunt really gets kids thinking about what their school plans are and collecting those items.

The next one, assisting the community, this is probably geared towards older high school age youth. This has them go out to the community and explain what a Go-Kit is; why individuals should have a Go-Kit in the community. Maybe they go to the elder citizens or the disabled community members and help them build a kit and have them deliver the information on why it is important and on why they should have one. This is a great opportunity for youth to engage the community and have a part of not only their school more prepared, but also their community and helping some of the community members that might not be able to put together a Go Kit to do so.

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The second group of activities that we put together here at the Center is for developing an emergency plan, development and understanding. And many of us have sat in school at one point and heard administrators and teachers discuss plans for the campus or the school. I found in my experience that allowing youth to be part of this, to actually have something visual and tangible helps them get that message and understand the plans a little more. So the first activity is the emergency management book. This can be scalable for young children where they can use pictures and older children can use text. Have them create a book that states in their words what to do in an emergency situation. What to do in a fire drill, what to do in a tornado, what to do in a

high wind situation and have them carry it with them. They can decorate the cover; they can make it their own. They always have this on them and they will know what to do. And in an emergency they can pull it out and look. That is also one of my favorites because it is something every kid will be able to hold onto and remember. This in a sense becomes their guide to what to do in an emergency situation.

The next one: problem skits. This is where you can get kids really thinking about some of those not so black and white areas of an emergency situation. You can present the campus emergency plan and throw them a twist. Ask what they would do with a student in a wheel chair and how they would make sure that they got out of the school and how they would make sure they were able to fall in line with the school emergency plan. Let them discuss it and then act it out in front of the class or the school. This gives them a way to definitely understand the campus plans for a variety of issues that they may face in an emergency. Also, a poster contest is a really good idea. This can be done school wide and they can be hung up in a central location such as a cafeteria, the other members of the schools, the student body, the administrators, staff, see these posters and anyone of these skits, the poster contest can be made into some type of competition where the best poster gets posted in the front lobby or the best skit gets performed at the next assembly.

These are some other activities that were put together at the Center. The youth preparedness committee is modeled after our safety and security committees that we at the Center suggest campuses have. This can be a group of youth that either by campaign or they can be selected on other criteria that the school or the district can set the criteria. These core groups of youth are the student body voice in issues of emergency management and preparedness. They will work with the administration to be involved in drills and exercises and voice concerns or even act as evaluators and certain drills and how the youth voice will be heard at a district and campus level.

The student led assemblies these are a great opportunity to let youth run and develop their own content. You give them basic and broad guidelines or parameters and let them develop who is going who is to speak, what information is important to them and to their fellow students. They develop everything from contacting the speakers, to what is presented, and who is presenting it. It is a great opportunity for the youth to become involved in delivering to their peers' important information.

Student led drills are also a very important aspect of getting youth involved. Let them develop a drill. Let them run a drill as an administrator would. Let them work with the first responders to evaluate their performance. Let them sit on the after action process and debrief; voice their opinions as students. I think that is very important to see it from the eyes of the youth where they might see something or consider something that we as adults may not.

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So, I would like to wrap up by stating that all of these activities have three things in common; they are all engaging, they all allow the youth to be hands-on in preparedness activities. They don't sit the youth down and give them a lecture; it allows them to be active in the process. They are all-powerful. They all deliver a strong preparedness message, whether it be developing a Go-Kit to have during an emergency or understanding the plans or getting involved at a campus level of what happens in emergency preparedness. Most important they are all fun.

They allow youth to be themselves and at the same time they're learning information and they're having fun with their friends in their ability to decorate their Go-Kit, they are able to act something out, being able to write in a book, this gives them a way to express themselves that their more comfortable. And at the same time they are still getting a powerful message and being engaged. So, as much as possible, I would suggest that the youth be put in charge when it comes to preparedness. Let them be creative and think outside the box. Often times they have great ideas that adults may have never considered. When youth feel that their opinions matter they tend to be more comfortable in the activity and understand the overarching message which in this case would be preparedness. Provide enough guidance to understand the message and let them run with it and great things will happen. So I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to speak. My contact information is on the screen if anyone has any questions feel free to contact me at anytime. Thank you.

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Thank you so much and we will continue to move on to our next guest speaker, Lisa Janak Newman, Public Information Office from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

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Good afternoon and thank you for having me. I'm excited to share with you our National Preparedness Month kids contest. We started the kids contest in 2009. Our goals were to increase awareness and interest in the importance of disaster preparedness, to educate children and through them their parents about Ready Georgia and how to prepare for different disasters. And to motivate families to take action to prepare plans and to stay informed through Ready Georgia. So they can become more resilient in a disaster. We don't want children to be scared during a disaster. We want them to know what to do when a disaster strikes at home and school. Children are influencers and we want to harness their power as messengers to make their family and friends more prepared. Finally, today's kids are tomorrow's leaders so who knows maybe one of our contest leaders can become the next emergency manager.

We had nearly 2000 entries submitted over the three years we have done the contest. We added a video component last year. Making videos is easier and easier and every cell phone is a video camera these days. We get some very creative and very professional entries. For instance, a class wrote and performed an entire musical based on preparedness and you can see their special effects. Those are flashlights that they are waving around in the air. Also, a home schooled girl created a very slick, polished and professional quality video in which she incorporated footage from "Duck and Cover", a 1951 civil defense film, starring Bert the Turtle, to demonstrate how preparedness messaging has changed over the past 60 years. There were some very encouraging entries. Now we have expanded the contest this year. It's now open to third through fifth graders and we are hoping to increase our number of entries. Our theme this year is Georgia kids are Super Ready. With this year's theme we are capitalizing on the popularity of the superhero movies and we are hoping to have the most successful year ever.

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The contest rules are very simple and the entry should creatively portray the Ready superhero theme and demonstrate understanding of at least one step of emergency preparedness. The essays are limited to 500 words. We don't want to overwhelm the judges with wordy essays. The video category is open to individual, groups and classes and there should be no longer than 4 min. They have all nods to create their entries and the contest concludes on September 30. It's amazing how creative kids are. We have gotten collages, mobiles, watercolors, poems, plays,

and a blind child submitted the entry in Braille. We're looking forward to seeing what they can do with the superhero theme this year.

To promote the contest we announce it in a statewide press release. We e-mail the announcement to school superintendents, school principals and we promote through our School Safety unit. In Georgia, School Safety is under Emergency Management. We are able to capitalize on that and use school safety officers to work with the schools and help promote the contest. We also promote the contest on the website and social media and we share it with kid contest websites for home school resources. We also promote the contest during all media interviews. Our director did one this morning where he talked up the contest in all of our outreach activities in September and we are very fortunate to work with a great PR firm to help us in this entire endeavor.

After we receive all of the entries, they are reviewed by a panel of judges. Past judges have been GEMA director, Charlie English, staff from the Imaginative Children's Museum of Atlanta and personnel from the school safety unit. We awarded first, second and third prizes in the art and essay categories and one winner in the video category. Past prizes have occurred that have included a ready kit by corporate sponsor, Home Depot, build a robot kit by the Imaginative Children's Museum of Atlanta, CNN studio tour tickets and a group pizza party by Papa John's. All prizes are donated and provide incentive for students to enter and that's why we get good entries. We feature the winners on our Ready Georgia website, Flickr page, and Facebook..

There are a lot of benefits to the campaign as well as to the children who enter the contest. For us it enables us to generate fresh fun content for our website, social media channels and media relations. It provides students an opportunity to internalize preparedness messages and generate their own creative take on what it means to get ready. This enables us to engage with our County EMA directors. We encourage them to promote the contest. We notify them when a student wins and we provide them with a certificate to give the child if they want to do a local presentation to recognize the winner. This gives them another way to work with our local EMA and get them involved in Ready Georgia.

In addition to the kids contest, every year we work with our corporate sponsor, the Home Depot, to host a Ready themed workshop for kids. The Home Depot host these kids' workshops the first Saturday of every month and every year they have agreed to promote preparedness in September. Every kid that attends receives a Ready kid preparedness book featuring the Rex the Ready mascot, and kids sized orange apron and an achievement pin. These workshops are popular and our staff participated last year. We are grateful for Home Depot for supporting this activity. They pay to have the Ready kids activity books printed and distributed to all their Georgia stores. That's about 10,000 books and a little less than 100 stores. We are also working on a school toolkit right now. We are finalizing it for third, fourth and fifth graders. We are hoping to have a pilot program in place next month that will include lesson plans for teachers, activities for children and handouts for parents.

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And this is my contact information. If you want to reach me or have any questions or need more information on anything I talked about will be happy to talk to at your convenience. There is my e-mail and phone number and feel free to give me a call anytime.

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Thank you so much those are good activities that are occurring in your area and again, just a reminder, we will open up later on for questions and answers to address your specific questions to either one of them. Next, we will have Dan Desantis to give a brief overview of school preparedness kits.

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Thank you, good afternoon, I am Dan Desantis and I am the contract support for Individual and Community Preparedness Division. I want to talk to you today about a resource that we created at ICPD that is now available on our National Preparedness Coalition website. Before I speak on the kit, I want to speak on the site for those of you that may not know about the National Preparedness Coalition website. The site is a part of the national preparedness campaign with conjunction with National Preparedness Month in September. It is an opportunity to encourage Americans to take action beyond the traditional message of get a kit, make a plan and be informed, supported by the Ready campaign and the Individual Community Preparedness Division. The site offers a number of resources and tools to explore the resources page. And the resource I'm talking to you today about is on the site called is a school toolkit. We created the school toolkit because it pulled a lot of resources together in one location. Actually today we made the school toolkit available on the National Preparedness Coalition website in the Explore resource section. So the school toolkit is broken up into two separate documents, one of them is for school administrators and the other for parents. Both contain tailored practical suggestions on preparedness and links to tools and resources. Resources are pulled from FEMA, Department of Education, CDC and practitioners in the field. Both documents have been reviewed by the Department of Education and looked over by the national PTA. Now I would like to walk through each document.

So, first, let's take a look at the toolkit for parents and guardians. This document provides suggestions to parents and guardians on questions asked of school personnel regarding school emergency management action planning. This information can be gathered at events such as back-to-school night, PTA meetings, or throughout the year. We understand the school policies will not only recognize what safety managers are being offered at school, but they will also highlight areas where they could bolster their own emergency planning. This document includes a variety of tools and resources including links to Ready.gov, communication tips for families, sample emergency plan and information on conducting emergency drills at home. We want to include information that parents, guardians or family members can be used that is family friendly and informative. These include CDs on the zombie preparedness, collection of videos that show Sesame Street take on emergency management and more. That is a wonderful picture of a zombie on the pages that CDC did for preparedness.

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So the second part of the toolkit will be the administrator toolkit. This document can help school administrators answer questions parents might have regarding emergency management planning and practices. For example we suggest sharing portions of the schools reunification plan or the district plan with parents and guardians at back-to-school night. We also suggest that administrators explain current roles and responsibilities in preparing for and responding to emergencies. The resource includes links to additional tools and resources that can help administrators within the school emergency planning. These resources are broken down into five main topic areas: plan assistance, vulnerability assessment, field exercises, reunification,

planning for students with functional needs and incorporating preparedness in the curriculum. The document provides a review of the youth preparedness program and links to related tools.

How can you actually access the toolkit? It's on our national preparedness website and you see the link right there. And you have to sign up with us to have access to this resource and whether you are a parent or guardian or school administrator, FEMA hopes these tools will make it easier for you to learn more about emergency preparedness and planning. We help share these resources with each other and other stakeholders or coalition members and wanted to join the discussion. So please sign up today on the National Preparedness Coalition site and download the material.

To close out I'm just going to take 30 seconds and explain how you can access and download the toolkit. First, sign up to become a member of the National Preparedness Coalition. I know that we will talk about that more later, so I won't go into detail about it now. If you were to go to that link on the side you would register on the site. Next you would go to the explore resources section on the left column of the home page and in the resources page you will find that we put this in two places. They were added today to the tool category and outreach category so you will be able to find them right there. Thank you very much. We hope you'll find this useful and we urge that you to share them with your colleagues and stakeholders. Thank you.

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Great job Dan, thank you so much. You made my presentation easier. A nice segue into a couple of Ready updates. I guess we're going to move to Citizen Corp.

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This is Jeannie Moran your youth director at FEMA. And because this is a back-to-school webinar without it would be good for you to have a quick update on some of the exciting things that have been happening at FEMA. Before we do that, we have been talking a lot about back-to-school projects and cool ideas on ways to build projects for National Preparedness Month that are easy and fun and not as heavy have a list as you would hope for a few weeks out from National Preparedness Month. So I wanted to share with you an idea that we got from Region III a few years ago. Some of the States got together and decided they wanted to do something together and of course, they did not have a ton of funding or a ton of time and effort outside of just the regular support for their different projects in their State. So all the state managers got together and decided to do one big push together across the FEMA Region III States. So each state reached out to its counties and local Citizen Corp councils within the state to know the exact key message to schools and general public push. Through their network they had one message it was something along the lines of, "Today is back-to-school day and have you talked to your principal about an emergency evacuation plan for your school?" And the different councils were sending out the same thing at the same time on the same day and it really got a heavy impact without a big lift. I would advise you if you were to ever do anything like that to forewarn the school system. It's just an idea that doesn't have to be a huge project to be really effective and hit a lot of people in a substantive way.

Again, back to FEMA youth updates. Probably our biggest thing, the thing has been a lot of hard work but really exciting is the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council. It convened for the first time last week. It is comprised of fourteen 13 to 17-year-olds who are working on a year-long project that are not only just reaching their communities but also their states and regions. They're going

to be a wealth of knowledge and such a support to us here at FEMA, to ensure that the youth voices are always elevated and always a part of the discussion not just on preparedness but all the divisions and portions that are a big part of the initiatives for all the communities here at FEMA. So we are really excited to have all of them and have a bigger team now. If you need any more information about that go to [Citizencorp.gov](http://Citizencorp.gov). The youth page has a big highlight on all of our members including short biographies about them. After meeting them, they are really great and we were really excited after having a very competitive pool of applicants. Another one as we talk about National Preparedness Month, one thing I would love to push and highlight and would love for you push out to your networks is the youth discussion boards on the National Preparedness Month website. There being used. And we're getting some great ideas. So once you sign up to be a coalition member which I am sure everyone on the line has signed up to be a coalition member. Click on the youth preparedness discussion boards, there are some cool discussions going on. In light of this conversation a lot of things that are talking about are cool back-to-school projects. The conversation doesn't have to end here.

Another is the continuation of our Youth Preparedness workshops. Actually right now I'm in Texas because we're putting on our 15th youth preparedness workshop. They are continuing. During National Preparedness Month we're going to push to have two of them so hopefully we get near you sooner rather than later. And lastly hopefully you have noticed on the Citizen Corps website I am sure you go hundred times a day, we have tried to change the amount and the volume of resources that are available to people who are thinking about starting a program. So if you're in that category, hopefully you have seen a lot more in our technical assistance program in terms of more guidance, more tools, more resources and even program materials. There is a way now to ask for any questions or advice and ask to be connected with anyone in a more direct way and again, [CitizenCorps.gov](http://CitizenCorps.gov) and click on youth preparedness. To access the entirety were building and growing youth preparedness technical assistance program at FEMA. And with that will pass it back to Aretha.

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Thank you so much, Jeannie. We will jump in for a quick update from Ready. Last month we reported we had roughly almost 6000 members and I am excited to report out as of today, we have over 10,000 National Preparedness Coalition members and we have exceeded the number of members that we had for 2011. Again, our goal is 12,500 and we are very much on target to meet that by September 1. Thank you all and please continue to spread the word.

Also, to join the National Preparedness Coalition there are two ways, you can go to [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) and in the lowers the right hand side there is a button called slides to prepare and if you click on that it will hyperlink you to what see on the screen, <http://community.fema.gov> and where you enter your name and organization what kind of organization represents there you can sign up and have access to all of the resources. There are two places, on the main page and on the lower right-hand side there is a tab and you can cut and paste this information into your browser and that will take you there as well.

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We want to highlight many of the tools and resources and features we showed them last month and we're going to show it again because we want to emphasize the importance of the discussion forum. You will see event calendars and the event idea photos and the continual outreach that is available. Again share the discussion forums. There a great way to communicate across regions

with one another and exchange ideas and event information. And we also have the event calendar that is populated by the members so when there is an event going on within your area, your hometown - you enter your state. I think it is a zip code and you can populate specific details about your event.

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This is a snapshot of the event calendar and again, you will see you can add your event by state and territory and you can also search for events by zip code. And you will see a blue figure pop up on the screen and that is where events are occurring within your area.

Here is another picture under the snapshot of the event and if we enter the zip code, this is what popped up for the events that are occurring in the area. We strongly encourage that all of our stakeholders do sign up and become a National Preparedness Coalition member. As well as utilize the tools that we have out there and specifically the discussion board and events page calendar, those two features are new for this year. Again it is a great resource to understand what is happening and getting involved in your community.

Another push to join, you can go to two places to enter this information and you can go to the <http://community.fema.gov> to the main page or browser to sign up to be a member and please feel free to reach out to any of these e-mails. [Citizenscorp@fema.gov](mailto:Citizenscorp@fema.gov) or [ready@fema.gov](mailto:ready@fema.gov)

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Next, we are going to conduct the Q and A.

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Thank you very much Artetha; this is Steve Precker again, as Aretha said we are moving into the question-and-answer portion of the webinar. I just changed the screen and it front of you should see a white chat box with a Q&A and after hearing the presentations today if you have any questions you would like to ask please fill free to type your question into the chat box. Our team here will be choosing questions to publish and will try to answer your question as best as we can. While people are typing their questions please be sure to stick around for a few minutes after our question and answer period concludes that we will have a brief poll that we will open up to garner some information as to what organization represents, if you are a member of the Citizen Corps Council, CERT teens, school districts, etc. So we will stand by while we wait for the first questions.

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*Question:* Our first question comes from Cathy Clark. In the experience of listeners, how early do need to contact schools to set up these activities and events? I'm going to put that question to either of our speakers, Joe McKenna or Lisa Janak Newman. Which one of you would like to answer the question?

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*Joe McKenna* - I will answer that one. In my opinion, I would say, as early as possible. It depends on the type of relationship you have with the school already. Reach out as soon as possible let them you know what you are planning to do and keep them involved in the process as you develop the activity and ideas.

*Lisa Janak Newman* – I agree with Joe. It really depends on the relationship you have with the school and what type of events and activities they have planned as well. If you have a

relationship and you can be flexible, you can usually work something out. I would reach out a least a couple of weeks.

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It looks like we have a response from Mr. Bookman about having schools to and evacuation must working with local fire departments do evacuation training at the beginning of the year.

And Aretha if you are on the line, there is a question, do many schools sign up for the ready.gov website or do most of the emergency coordinators and planners sign up and then give the resources to the teachers? Are you still on the line with us?

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*Aretha Carter* - Yes, I am, I am having some technical difficulties. I don't have that number offhand, we do have in terms of becoming members, and they can sign up. I don't have a specific number right now. I will make sure when this webinar gets posted that they will include that to show various categories which I believe we can show number of schools that have registered.

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*ICPD* - In addition to that, it is both, we have a number of schools that have registered and have signed up for National Preparedness Month at [community.fema.gov](http://community.fema.gov). So that is really we are hoping to have a more collaborative effort for where we have schools signing on to ensure resources for themselves but we have emergency managers and coordinators signing up as well ideally registering having emergency managers and school local communities meeting in the middle. We are going to go ahead and show the link right there at <http://community.fema.gov>

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*Question* - We also have a question from Robert Dunn, about how many schools provide orientation on the safety plan with parents including the student reunification plan. I want to put this to our speakers, I don't know if there is in line with your experience but over the course of your working with schools, if Lisa Janak Newman or Joe McKenna has run into how frequent are the schools provide a safety or student unification plan at the beginning of the year, if that is a common occurrence or not?

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*Joe McKenna* - I don't have any first-hand experience with that. I would guess some school districts are more proactive than others, so some share the information and others do not but I don't have any experience with that, I apologize.

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*Lisa Janak Newman* - This is Lisa, and in Georgia we encourage parents as part of their disaster plan to contact their children's school to find out what kind of plans are in place. Our research shows that 50% are not aware of what the school plans are so it is very important for them to find out.

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*Question* - Thank you very much, looks like we have a question from one of the members from our brand-new youth preparedness council. She said I am one of the youth preparedness representatives from Region IX. I am working out partnering up with the private sector. In your experience, how supportive as the corporate world been in these efforts and do think they could have an influence on teens?

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*Lisa Janak Newman* - This is Lisa; I can give you our perspective here in Georgia. The private sector is very important in emergency management and in all phases of emergency management.

Our partnership with Home Depot has worked out great for us to really extend our reach not just before a disaster but during and after a disaster. We are looking to form a corporate advisory council or some kind of group like that we can encourage and improve our relationships even more with the private sector and I think they could include teens and youth in those projects as well. We are looking forward to seeing how we can use that with the project.

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*Joe McKenna* - I've also come across many private national companies that are very supportive of youth involvement in emergency management and some account to mind are State Farm, Target, different big companies like that . If you can get a hold of some after action reviews and lookup the companies and organizations that have donated or provided assistance, those are often the companies that you want to go to and they're going to be the most willing to help you but definitely State Farm is big as they have a youth advisory committee that handles the grants that are sent out that are specifically for youth activities.

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*Question* - Thank you very much; we also have a follow-up question from Cathy Clark, where can I find the list of items for school room Go Kit for students? Or are we talking about a classroom safety kit one unit per room? I am going to post the Ready.gov build a kid web link that you can visit that will give you some great information on the emergency supply kit in the classroom.

It looks like we are wrapping up with questions. Lisa or Joe would you like to add anything else for the audience to recognize about youth preparedness and back to school??

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*Lisa Janak Newman* - I don't have anything to add but thank you for the opportunity and if anyone thinks of any questions later on they want to ask, they can call me directly at 404-635-0719.

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*Joe McKenna* - I would extend the same invitation if anyone has any questions or needs clarifications on any of the activities I discussed or are you are thinking about implementing it in a different way want some feedback on that feel free to call me or e-mail me at any time. Thank you.

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*Steve Precker* - Thank you very much and I would just like to remind everyone that this webinar has been recorded. The audio along with the presentations and question and answer session will be posted to the Citizen Corps website within 48 hours. I'm going to go ahead and post that link so everyone can visit it when they have a chance please feel free to distribute this presentation within the school districts, to your peers, and with that, I would like to turn it back over to Aretha Carter from the Ready campaign with any closing remarks.

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*Aretha Carter* - Thank you I don't have any closing remarks. Thank you to our speakers this month and we will have this posted on the website and for playback and recording. Thank you everyone.

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And as a reminder, we have switched over to the polling page right now and if you have a few seconds before you hang up, please feel free to answer some questions. Thank you again for joining us.