



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

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Salt River Pima-Maricopa Receives Child Passenger Safety Team of the Year Award

Even during pandemic, motto rings true: 'safer than when they arrived'

ITASCA, IL – During the pandemic, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa (AZ) Indian Community Child Passenger Safety Team learned to embrace new challenges and adapt in a shifting climate.

Team members worked from home and took on new roles, rarely skipping a beat. All the while, they adhered to their motto: every child leaves an interaction safer than when they arrived. In 2021, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Child Passenger Safety Team completed:

- 350-plus appointments with parents and caregivers, providing one-on-one training with a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician
- 10 car seat check events in cooperation with Salt River Schools, each one governed by strict COVID-19 safety protocols
- 5 events with partners outside the tribal community, serving clients in need through child passenger safety education and the distribution of car seats

Today, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Team is saluted for these efforts as the National Child Passenger Safety Team of the Year by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#). The award is sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

“I’ve heard it said that coming together is a beginning and keeping together is progress,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Mandi Seethaler said. “If that’s true, then working together to make such an enormous impact during the pandemic certainly is the definition of success. I congratulate the Salt River Pima-Maricopa team for a job well done.”

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Child Passenger Safety team consists of:

- 1 Child Passenger Safety Instructor
- 17 active Child Passenger Safety Technicians
- 2 Technicians trained in special needs transportation

All follow the lead of Monte Yazzie, who serves not only as a mentor but also as the point person for developing marketing and promotional materials for child passenger safety events. He regularly schedules refresher classes for Technicians. He explains his “why” in one word: People.

“It’s the people,” Yazzie said. “The new parents, guardians and grandparents you meet who are doing their best to provide safe options for their little ones, but also Technicians and partners who dedicate themselves to education and instruction. All these people show a commitment to safety. Child passenger safety promotes the capacity to save a life, and the people who commit to making a difference in the lives of others will always be the beautiful reward of doing this work.”

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, a program managed by the National Safety Council, seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training. The program is used to train and certify child passenger safety technicians and instructors. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board’s website at www.cpsboard.org