



## **Banning Police Department**

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### *Press Release*

**Date:** June 3, 2008  
**Location:** Replier Park  
**Incident:** Ready 2 Ride Youth Safety Expo

#### **Ready 2 Ride Youth Safety Expo 2008**

Are you *Ready to Ride*? The Banning Police Department is kicking off this summer by hosting its second annual "Ready 2 Ride" Youth Safety Expo on Saturday, June 28, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Ready 2 Ride Safety Expo is absolutely free to the public. Ready 2 Ride will be held at Replier Park in the Community Center Parking lot. The Ready 2 Ride Youth Safety Expo is just part of Banning Police Department's continued commitment to providing the best safety education to its youth and parents.

600 freestyle skater-style helmets and safety kits will be issued to kids 14 years and under and are accompanied by a parent or adult. The helmets will be distributed and fitted by volunteers from the Kiwanis of Banning and a local Boy Scout troop. The helmets are being purchased by the Banning Police Department and generous sponsorships from local businesses and individual donors. Several cool prizes for kids will be raffled off throughout the expo. Kids 14 and under can earn one free raffle ticket by taking a ride through the *Safety Obstacle Course*.

Ready 2 Ride 2008 will feature a newly designed *Safety Obstacle Course* for kids. The safety obstacle course was designed to provide kids with real-life road hazards and conditions within a controlled environment. The course will be complete with stop signs, crosswalks, RxR tracks and other traffic hazards. Traffic officers will be stationed throughout the course to assist kids as they maneuver their way through. Younger children can be escorted through the safety course by their parents to ensure they understand the importance of obeying traffic signs. Upon completion of the safety course, all kids will be issued their very own *Rider's License*. The Rider's License is the size of a business card and can be personalized. On the back of the Rider's License is a safety pledge, safety tips and a reminder to always use their safety equipment.

Kids 14 and under are encouraged to bring their own bike, scooter or skateboard to the expo so they can ride through the safety course. Parents can also register their child's bicycle at no cost. Registering a bicycle is required by the City of Banning and will help identify the bike if it is ever lost or stolen. Ready 2 Ride will have over 25 interactive booths and exhibits. Sports and safety professionals from all walks of life will be on hand to provide kids and families with valuable safety information and inside tips about sports safety. The *Termite Skate Team*, made up of young armature skaters, will be the featured skaters at the expo showing off the latest skateboard tricks at the Replier Skate Park.

The entire day will be focused on youth sports, outdoor activities, and personal safety. Ready 2 Ride is a fun and exciting way to raise awareness about personal safety. Everyone, regardless of age, must be "street smart" when it comes to personal safety.

For those who are not familiar with the helmet laws, the following is an excerpt from the California Vehicle Code: *CVC 21212. (a) A person under 18 years of age shall not operate a bicycle, a non-motorized scooter, or a skateboard, nor shall they wear in-line or roller skates, nor ride upon a bicycle, a non-motorized scooter, or a skateboard as a passenger, upon a street, bikeway, as defined in Section 890.4 of the Streets and Highways Code, or any other public bicycle path or trail unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the standards of either the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Code currently requires persons under the age of 18 years to wear an approved safety helmet while riding their bicycle, skateboard, or in-line skates.*