

## Safe Driving Campaign presented by State Farm and Sanderson Ford

# Safe driving emerges front and center at the Gonzalez household

Photos: Jennifer Stewart / Arizona Diamondbacks

The Gonzalez triplets turned 16 this summer, and their family seized upon this important milestone to team up with Sanderson Ford and State Farm to promote safe driving among teenagers.

Anchoring a comprehensive program, the Arizona Diamondbacks and insurance giant State Farm hosted Teen Safe Driving seminars, in which one teen driver and one parent or guardian would participate in a one-hour interactive driving seminar.

Each participant received a complimentary D-backs game ticket and was recognized on the field during a pregame ceremony. Safe driving seminars were

held on two Saturdays, July 19 and August 2, at three o'clock in the afternoon at Chase Field in downtown Phoenix.

"It's hard to believe it's been 13 years since we won the World Championship, and even harder to believe that my triplets are turning 16," said proud papa, fan favorite, double-and-home-run-dazzling Series-winning slugger and outfielder Luis Gonzalez, now Special Assistant to the CEO and president of the Arizona Diamondbacks organization. "The only thing more intimidating than a 95-mph fastball is teaching my three teens to drive," he adds.

Gonzo welcomed the safety technology

and training offered by State Farm in conjunction with Sanderson Ford in Glendale.

"As a parent, I want the best for my kids, and I hope our Teen Safe Driving program with Sanderson and State Farm will help every family bring their teens home safe," he continued.

David Kimmerle, president of Sanderson Ford, helped drive the partnership his dealership shared with State Farm, the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Gonzalez family. "Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among 15- to 20-year-olds," he reminds us. "More awareness and training, along with new safety technology—

(Right) A meet'n'greet at Chase Field on June 7. Some things never change—the fans love Luis Gonzalez, and Luis loves the fans. (Below) Christine, Megan and Alyssa shop vehicles at Sanderson Ford.

like MyKey in new Fords—will save lives and help bring teens home safe."

State Farm vice president of agency Laura Kunewa credits the importance of family. "Parents are the most important role model and driving mentors for their teen," she said. "They are critical in allowing their teen to gain ample supervised driving practice, knowing and enforcing state laws, as well as other house driving rules."

Prior to the seminars, Luis Gonzalez met with fans before the Arizona Diamondbacks' June 7 game against the Atlanta Braves. (The D-backs tied up this cliffhanger in the bottom of the 9th; Atlanta pulled ahead by one run in the top of the 10th, but Arizona did twice as well as that in the bottom of the inning, securing a 4-3 win over Atlanta.)

Safe travels and good times to all. ■



Luis Gonzalez is joined by his wife Christine (second from right) and 16-year-old triplets: Alyssa (left), Jacob (center) and Megan (right).

