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## MEDIA ALERT

LA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS JOIN IN  
FIELD TRIPS AT 2015 TOYOTA GRAND PRIX OF  
LONG BEACH

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### WHO:

Students from nine Los Angeles area schools are set to participate with nearly 1,000 children in field trips at the **Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach on April 17 - 19, 2015**. The kids will be treated to Racers Who Care Quick Tips on Winning in Life life skills presentations made by pro-racers and take racer-guided Paddock Tours to see the Tips being enacted in real life by race teams. The Grand Prix Association of Long Beach has provided **Conference Room 202C on the third floor of the Long Beach Convention Center** for the Quick Tips on Winning in Life racer presentations.

This Program has been made possible by a grant from Long Beach-based Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation.

Locally-based racers who will also be involved in speaking to the children include: Indy Lights competitor for Juncos Racing, Spencer Pigot, from Pasadena; Pro Mazda Championship Presented by Cooper Tires competitor, Kenton Koch, who lives in the Covina, California area; Marcus Wiley, who has tried out several different types of motorsports and is from the San Bernardino area; drag racer, Donald Galaz, of San Pedro, who is official spokesperson for the International Brotherhood of Street Racers; and, Rene Villeneuve, a road racer who is instructs at the Skip Barber Racing School in Calabasas.

Arranged through Leo Gallardo, of the L.A. All-Stars after school program provider, students are participating from the Suva Intermediate School, View Park Elementary School, Lou Dantzler Elementary School, Synergy Kinetic Academy, College Ready Middle Academy #12, College Ready Middle Academy #4, RISE Middle School, Burlington Middle School, Bell Gardens Intermediate School, and Harte Preparatory Middle School. Participating through the coordination of Manuel McLeod, of the Champions for Charters after school program provider, students are participating from Los Angeles area's New Heights Charter School.

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Area volunteers generously assisting during the weekend are: photographer Vernice Morris, photographer Yuri Osorio, Leo Galardo, Andrew Gekas, Kim Hurtubise, Missy Collins, and Tess Cozine and several friends and relatives. Additionally, volunteers are traveling quite a way to participate and include Janna Hitchcock and Stayce White, of Phoenix, Arizona, Mike Mills from Fresno, California, and Amir Shayan coming with a friend from San Diego, California.

The Racer Quick Tips Presentations and Paddock Tours center on key universal truths RWC calls Quick Tips on Winning in Life, applicable to all children and teens regardless of age, cultural background, or life experience: find something to do in life that you really love, study, learn the art of teamwork, find a mentor, take the long view, be flexible with your dreams and goals, avoid the path of least resistance, and more. Racers share with kids their own personal experiences centered around these Quick Tips.

Made possible by a grant from the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, of Long Beach, California, the presentations will take place in **Conference Room 302C on the third floor of the Long Beach Convention Center**, donated by the Grand Prix's Mike McElroy. The Grand Prix Association of Long Beach, through McElroy and Chris Esslinger, have very generously donated tickets, presentation space and furniture and press credentials to Racers Who Care for the field trip program.

### **WHEN:**

**April 17 - 19, 2015**

### **WHERE:**

**PROMENADE [Room 202C, Third Floor]  
LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

### **RACERS:**

Other racers to be involved in inspiring kids to believe in themselves and in their dreams include: From the Atlanta, Georgia area, IMSA | TUDOR United SportsCar Championship competitor for Team Falken Tire, Bryan Sellers, along with his teammate from Germany, Wolf Henzler, and teammate from Florida, Patrick Long. From Sandy, Utah, land speed record setter in naked bike competition at the Bonneville Salt Flats and other venues, RWC's Board Chair, Scott Horner. From the Fresno, California area, JD Davis, a retired racer

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who provides race support services and Mike Mills, who works for Fresno County. From Indianapolis Indiana, Dr. Geoff Billows, Medical Director for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, along with the IndyCar Medical and Safety Team. From Charlotte, North Carolina, Pirelli World Challenge competitor, Mike Skeen. And, from Santa Clara, California, Indy Lights competitor for Juncos Racing, Kyle Kaiser.

#### **WHY:**

Quick Tips on Winning in Life racer presentations to children's groups, schools, hospitals are an avenue through which professional racers can give back to the communities where they live and race, by inspiring, affirming, empowering, and fueling the dreams of children and teens, and encouraging them to believe in themselves and reach for their dreams.

Racers Who Care, Inc. is a Va Nuys, California-based 501c3 charitable corporation, founded in 1993, that works with auto, boat, motorcycle, truck and even snowmobile racers dedicated to making a positive difference for our next generation. In Southern California, and throughout the U.S. in communities surrounding their tracks, RWC's racers have unforgettably impacted kids with exciting observations on how to succeed, presented by people who have -- very publicly, and in a field perceived as ruthless, tough and unforgiving.

#### **EVENT SUPPORTERS:**

Joy Warren, of the City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Department, partnering with RWC on the field trip program, has scheduled various student groups and coordinated the students' transportation and on site arrival. Additionally, partnering with RWC on scheduling Los Angeles student groups are Leo Gallardo, of LA All-Stars, and Manuel McLeod of Champions for Charters Club, both are primarily after school program providers. The Long Beach Boys & Girls Club and YMCA are also sending groups of kids to participate.

#### **CONTACT:**

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### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**WWW.TOYOTA.COM**

**WWW.GPLB.COM**

**WWW.INDYCAR.COM**

**WWW.NORRISFOUNDATION.ORG**

**WWW.LA-ALLSTARS.ORG**

**WWW.LONGBEACH.GOV/PARK**

**WWW.BGCLUBLB.ORG**

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**WWW.KENTONKOCHRACING.COM**

**WWW.HEADS-UP-PERFORMANCE.COM**

**WWW.PHOTOGRAPHYBYOSORIO.BLOGSPOT.COM**

**HTTP://WWW.INDYCAR.COM/FAN-INFO/INDYCAR-101/SAFETY/HOLMATRO-SAFETY-TEAM**

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