

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **AARP Driver Safety Recognizes the Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging with “Top State Host” Award**

Local organization receives award for offering driving refresher courses in 2014

**Traverse City, Michigan** – AARP Driver Safety recently recognized the Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging with the inaugural “Top State Host” Award for its outstanding support in 2014 collaborating with local AARP Driver Safety volunteers to host its classroom-based driving refresher course, designed to help drivers stay safe and confident behind the wheel.

“AARP Driver Safety plays a critical role in educating drivers and helping them maintain their safety and independence,” said Kyle Rakow, interim national director of AARP Driver Safety. “Our initiative would not be so successful without the support of our host organizations, who generously dedicate staff time, resources and facility space to serving older Americans.”

From January 1 through December 31, 2014 the Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging offered 6 courses at its facility, reaching 80 participants in the area. To offer some perspective as to just how momentous this achievement is, AARP Driver Safety volunteers work with more than 18,000 local community organizations to offer more than 30,000 Driver Safety courses each year.

AARP Driver Safety’s Top State Hosts are recognized based on the profound impact they make reaching drivers in their community. Of the hundreds of organizations in the state that held a course in 2014, we selected the host that reached the largest number of participants and the host that held the highest number of courses to be honored. Using these criteria allowed AARP Driver Safety to recognize hosts that are tremendously supportive and actively working to make their community safer for all road users.

The Grand Traverse County Commission on aging continues to offer AARP Driver Safety events, including the AARP Smart Driver course. AARP membership is not required to take the course. For more information, visit [www.aarp.org/drive](http://www.aarp.org/drive).

### **ABOUT AARP DRIVER SAFETY**

*AARP Driver Safety first launched in 1979 as the “55 Alive” program to help to keep older drivers independent, safe and confident while on the road. Today AARP Driver Safety continues to meet the needs to older drivers through leading educational programs that include the AARP Smart Driver Course, Car-Fit, We Need to Talk and the Driving Resource Center. The flagship AARP Smart Driver Course is the nation’s largest classroom and online driver safety course and is designed especially for driver’s age 50 years and older. Over 15 million participants have gone through AARP Driver Safety classroom and online courses, taught by more than 4,000 AARP Driver Safety volunteers. The courses are available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. To learn more visit [www.aarp.org/drive](http://www.aarp.org/drive) or follow us @AARPdsp.*