



Contact: Courtney Goines  
Media Relations Manager  
Tel: 323-663-1111 x3176  
E-mail: [cgoines@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:cgoines@brailleinstitute.org)  
<http://www.brailleinstitute.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**START YOUR ENGINES**  
**Blind And Visually Impaired Teens Gear Up For A Unique Car Race**

Los Angeles, CA -- July 13, 2005

On Saturday, July 16, more than 60 blind and visually impaired teens from across Southern California will take the wheel—not literally—but they will be in control as they navigate an 80-mile course through the streets of Los Angeles, at the 29th Annual Braille Institute Sports Car Rallye. The volunteer drivers for this event will include officers from the California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department, L.A.P.D. and local sports car clubs, who will be driving a variety of cars, ranging from Dodge Vipers to Mini Coopers. Each sighted driver will be paired with a blind navigator who will be required to read more than 80 miles of directions in braille. The driver/navigator team must work together to get to various checkpoints throughout the city and arrive at the finish line in the correct lapsed time. The sighted drivers will have no idea as to the location of the checkpoints, so it will be up to 60 blind navigators to lead the way. This special competition is designed to promote braille literacy and encourage teamwork. Celebrity drivers will include Mike Anson, “The Car Guy,” and car specialist Dave Kunz from KABC 7 News.

The Rallye will begin at Braille Institute’s Los Angeles Center, located at 741 North Vermont Avenue, in Los Angeles. The first car out will leave the back gate on New Hampshire street at 10 a.m.,

- MORE -

and the participants will reach the final checkpoint between 2 and 3 p.m. The teams with the best times will be awarded medals and trophies. The secret location of the final checkpoint is Murdy Park on Norma Drive off the 405 freeway in Huntington Beach.

# # #

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Courtney Goines, Media Relations Manager, please contact her at (323) 663-1111, Ext. 3176, or by email:

Braille Institute is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate blindness and severe sight loss as a barrier to a fulfilling life. Through educational training, programs and services, Braille Institute helps tens of thousands of people each year regain and maintain their independence. Thanks to generous donations, Braille Institute services are available free of charge. More information can be found at [www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org).

- END -