

# TIPS FOR TEACHERS

## Organizing a Training Session for your Safety Patrol Team



### Why is it important to organize training for your new Safety Patrol Members?

Students are excited when selected to serve as Safety Patrol members, but often this new role is accompanied by nervousness and anxiety over the new responsibilities. Organizing a training session provides the students with an opportunity to gain knowledge and confidence in their ability to perform their duties.

### Who should train the Safety Patrols?

Your local Safe Kids coalition is a great organization to start with for training your Safety Patrol Team. Their coordinators specialize in accidental injury prevention which includes car safety, pedestrian safety, and bicycle safety.

A uniformed law enforcement officer may assist with the trainings. Ask your local school resource officer, police department, or sheriff's department to partner for this event. Authority figures in uniform are respected by students. Other uniformed officials may include EMS professionals or paramedics, fire department representatives, or your local crossing guard.

But don't worry. If these individuals are unavailable, it's perfectly reasonable to give this training yourself!

### What topics should the Safety Patrol training cover?

You should take some time to talk about what it means to be a Safety Patrol member. How and why these students were selected, and what are the expectations for their continued participation? Are there certain requirements regarding attendance, grades, or behavior for them to remain on the Safety Patrol Team?

Talk about their specific duties. If your school has Safety Patrol Members interacting with walkers, bus riders, or bike riders, then the following topics may be relevant:

- Pedestrian safety: Where it's safe to walk, how to cross the street, and wear reflecting clothing
- Bus loading safety: Keep clear of bus blind spots or danger zones, respect the bus drivers
- Parking lot safety: How to cross the parent loop and other things to be mindful of
- Bicycle safety: Where are the bikes parked, walk them while on campus, always wear a helmet

Most Safety Patrol members may, at some point, serve in the car rider loops at school. When assisting with arrival or dismissal, some things to always be mindful of include:

- Remind students to remove their backpacks while waiting for their car, open the door for the back seat only and encourage students to ride in the back, give friendly reminders to classmates to buckle their seat belt before closing the door
- If parents request for their child to sit in the front, remind them that as a member of the Safety Patrol it is their duty to promote safe behaviors, and that the back seat is the safest place for children to sit. Students may still sit in the front, but it is against policy for Safety Patrol members and school staff to open the front door of vehicles for students
- Always stand one big step from the curb while cars are moving

### How do I plan a Safety Patrol training?

- Select a date and time that will be convenient for your Safety Patrol to receive the training
- Contact and schedule the people you wish to present safety topics at the training
- Establish an agenda for your training and create a pre/post test (see the example on the back of this tip sheet) to benchmark your students' knowledge
- Share the agenda and the pre-test with your presenters to make sure that everyone is on the same page and understands their role with the training
- Before the training, administer the pre-test to establish current knowledge level
- A few weeks after the training, issue the post-test to gauge students' retention of the training materials
- Establish a "next step" activity for your Safety Patrols. Ideas may include creating a Safety Patrol handbook, writing skits to highlight safety topics and performing them on the morning news, drawing posters to hang in the car loop to remind students to buckle up

**Contact your Safe Routes to School Outreach Coordinator for assistance with the training.**

**QUESTIONS?**  
We are here to help.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# SAFETY PATROL

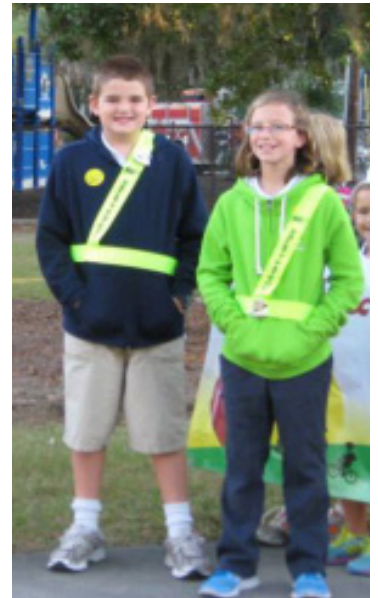
## Pre/Post Test

### True or False:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Safety patrol team members are leaders and set safe examples for fellow students.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A Safety Patrol team member should keep their uniform or belt clean and neat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Stopping cars is a duty of a Safety Patrol team member.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Safety Patrols may say, "Have a safe day," "Don't forget to buckle-up," or "Thank you for buckling up" to parents who pick up their children in the car line.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Safety Patrols should remind bike riders to always wear their bike helmets.  
If the student responds that they don't own a helmet, ask your Safety Patrol Team leader if there is a way to obtain one for the student.

### Multiple Choice:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Why should a student remove their backpack before buckling up?
- a. Because you're the boss and you told them to
  - b. The seatbelt won't work properly
  - c. It's a state law
  - d. It's bad for posture
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Which of the following actions does NOT represent responsible safety patrol behavior in the car drop off or pickup line?
- a. Shouting at a parent who won't stop speaking on their cell phone
  - b. Reminding classmates to buckle their seat belts before leaving
  - c. Encouraging students to sit in the back seat because the back seat is the safest place
  - d. Asking students to remove book bags before getting into the car
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. As a Safety Patrol member, if you are ever tasked with escorting students across a street, which of the following should you do?
- a. Obey the instructions from a crossing guard or teacher at all times
  - b. Give the arms-stretched signal for schoolmates to wait behind you on the sidewalk
  - c. Remain at your post until you have safely assisted all students across the street
  - d. All of the above
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Which side of the car should students exit when arriving in the drop-off loop?
- a. From the same side as the driver
  - b. From the passenger side (curb-side)
  - c. From the back
  - d. Any side
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. If students walk to and from school, and there is not a sidewalk available, what side of the road should they walk on?
- a. On the right shoulder in order to walk with traffic (facing away from oncoming cars)
  - b. On the left shoulder in order to walk against traffic (facing towards oncoming cars)
  - c. In the middle of the road
  - d. Anywhere they want
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. What actions should be taken before crossing or entering a road or highway?
- a. Look right, left, right
  - b. Look left, right, left
  - c. Look left, look right, then enter
  - d. Look right, look left, then enter
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. How many "giant" steps should a student take for clearance around a bus for safety?
- a. 5
  - b. 10
  - c. 3
  - d. 6



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