

The Patroller



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The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education is a non-profit organization funded by members of AAA Mid-Atlantic.

Thank You!

As you head into the final stretch of the school year, we would like to thank you for your time and effort in promoting traffic safety through the AAA School Safety Patrol program. Your support enables the AAA School Safety Patrol program to flourish. We invite you to share information and photos with other School Safety Patrol coordinators via this newsletter. Please forward all correspondence to:

AAA Mid-Atlantic
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The Patroller is Going "Green"

In an effort to save paper and reduce costs, the Foundation will be posting all future editions of *The Patroller* online at <http://AAA.com/Foundation> (link to **School Safety Patrol**). Beginning with the September edition, your school will be notified via postcard that the newsletter is online and ready to be downloaded or viewed. There will be two editions of *The Patroller* each year. Look for new editions in March and September.

Coming Soon!

Due to numerous inquiries, the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education is in the process of designing a AAA School Safety Patrol t-shirt for patrollers to purchase. Watch for more details in September!

We Need Your Help!



Do you have an Outstanding AAA School Safety Patroller—someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty on a regular basis? On May 27, 2009, AAA and the Mid-Atlantic

Foundation for Safety & Education will host the 10th annual Outstanding AAA School Safety Patrol Awards luncheon. This event is held to honor the achievements of individual AAA School Safety Patrollers based on the qualities of leadership, dependability, promptness, neatness, and helping to ensure the safety of other students in traffic safety situations. One patroller from each school district will be honored at this event. Each recipient will receive \$150 in U.S. savings bonds and a distinguished, personalized plaque, with a mounted gold patrol badge. Please begin thinking of a patroller who is deserving of this award. In the next few weeks, patrol coordinators will receive nomination forms and further information. When completing your nomination form, please remember to include examples of how this patroller is *outstanding*.

Have a question regarding the AAA School Safety Patrol Program? Visit AAA.com/foundation

Visit the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education website, and view the expanded AAA School Safety Patrol webpage, which contains valuable information for coordinators, parents, and patrols. Our hope is to provide updated information, helpful tips, guidelines, and special events for the AAA School Safety Patrols.

Orioles Designate Safety Patrol Day at Camden Yards

The Orioles will sponsor a AAA Safety Patrol Day at Camden Yards on May 29, 2009. Over 30,000 Maryland students are members of a Safety Patrol, and the Orioles will donate approximately 10,000 tickets. Distribution of the tickets will be done through local police departments, patrol coordinators, and the Foundation. Please keep in mind that not every patroller will be able to receive a ticket.

Please do not guarantee your patrollers a ticket until you find out how many tickets will be allotted for your school. Information has been sent to all patrol coordinators. If you have not received information by **May 1**, please contact Myra Wieman.



A LEADER IN TRAFFIC SAFETY

Patrol Training

Now is the time to recruit new AAA School Safety Patrols and, when possible, train these new patrol members so they are ready to take their posts when the new school year begins.

Myra Wieman is available for training to veteran and newly formed patrol groups. She is also available this spring to speak with students who are being considered for the upcoming school year. Training consists of teaching patrollers how to help get children to and from school safely, as well as leadership training.

Below, students from Arlington Elementary along with their Patrol Supervisor, Ms. Tanya Brown, received Safety Patrol training for their newly formed program.



AAA School Safety Patrol Training Corner

Part of the pledge patrollers take is a promise to “report dangerous student practices.” Just what are those practices? A dangerous practice endangers students. When a patroller observes a dangerous practice, he or she should:

- ◆ Politely explain the risk to the offender (if it is another student).
- ◆ Seek assistance from an adult, if the behavior continues.
- ◆ Never touch another student unless it is an emergency situation.
- ◆ Report dangerous situations to a patrol officer or the patrol sponsor for follow-up.

If another patroller is involved in a dangerous practice, this should be reported to the patrol supervisor. Individual school system guidelines should be in place to handle such disciplinary actions, including probation, suspension, and dismissal.

AAA School Safety Patrol Sponsor Survey

A survey was recently sent to several schools in the AAA Mid-Atlantic service area. The following are suggestions/ideas from patrol sponsors:

- ◆ Have police officers come to patrol meetings and interact with patrols.
- ◆ Provide an “end of the year” picnic.
- ◆ Have a school bus brought in for patrol training.
- ◆ Select a Patroller of the Month.
- ◆ Provide small treats—hot cocoa, Halloween candy, etc.
- ◆ Frequently change patrol responsibilities.
- ◆ Create a monthly bulletin board highlighting different safety concerns within the school. In addition, display patrol photos and recognition.
- ◆ Have Safety Patrols provide lessons on traffic safety to children in lower grades at the school.
- ◆ Ride the bus with students to reinforce rules and model for patrols.

End of the Year Awards

Award of merit certificates and silver lapel pins should be distributed to AAA School Safety Patrollers at the end of each school year. **Please do not provide belts and badges as awards or souvenirs**, but rather collect all patrol equipment (belts and badges) at year-end. Supplies are limited!

Proper Belt Placement

Belts should be worn over the right shoulder and clasped in the front.



School Highlights

Bollman Bridge Elementary inducted new Patrollers in a school assembly coordinated by Patrol Advisor, Jacquie Torbit. Guest speakers included Myra Wieman and Officer Chris Krieger from the Howard County Police Department. Thomson Estates Elementary in Elkton received new Patrol training by Myra Wieman in February. They now have their new patrol group up and running. Mr. Charles “Woodie” Braywood leads this impressive group of fourth and fifth graders.



Safety Patrol Night with the Baltimore Blast

Over 50 AAA School Safety Patrollers took the field on March 21, 2009, for AAA Safety Patrol Night with the Baltimore Blast.

Patrollers received free admission (with the purchase of one regular priced ticket), and were honored via a PA announcement and participation in the pre-game parade. Patrollers also received a personalized certificate of recognition from the Baltimore Blast.



The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education is a designated “write-in” agency for United Way. Code “9619”

