

GENERAL

• Scholar Patrol and Road Safety

Scholar Patrol is an important part of road safety education and essential to enhancing the safety of our scholars at their schools. Not only does it regulate traffic, improve speed calming and facilitate safe crossing of the road but also instils in the minds of our young pedestrians an awareness of the importance of road safety.

The Safety Patrol Program was started by the American Automobile Association (AAA) in 1920. Boys, when they reached the sixth grade, would be screened for the proper character traits and then trained in safety and put to use.

Why do we need Scholar Patrol?

Each year, children travel to and from school almost 200 times.

Dangerous traffic congestion occurs around schools with so many parents dropping their children off in the morning and picking them up after school. Traffic Authorities, school teachers and principals recognise that this congestion creates the most dangerous location on a child's journey to and from school.

Scholar Patrol performs a very important and responsible public service by controlling traffic and by safeguarding scholar pedestrians. Student patrollers guide fellow students and prevent them from entering traffic when it is unsafe.

Benefits of Scholar Patrol / School Patrol

- The Scholar Patrol program benefits the school, the community and the student safety patrollers.
- The program provides quality training and recognition for student safety patroller's efforts.
- Apart from providing safer access to schools at nearby crossings, this program inspires patrollers to develop positive relationships with peers and authority figures and develop leadership skills, teamwork, maturity and a sense of responsibility.
- The Scholar Patrol helps foster closer ties with the community and increases the school's visibility in the community.
- Student patrollers are visible ambassadors for their school and assist both parents and their children at school crossings.

Characteristics of members of Scholar Patrol / School Patrol

Scholar Patrol is a call for unselfish service to fellow pupils and the community. It requires the efforts of individuals with the following characteristics:

- Responsibility – a focus on the safety of pedestrians is of paramount importance.
- Punctuality – the team and our fellow pedestrian scholars depend on the team to be on duty, on time.

- Dedication – demands are made on the free time of scholars and their ability to come out in any weather conditions, their enthusiasm and need for ongoing training.
- Commitment to teamwork with character traits like dependability, attention to detail, honesty, seriousness, etc.

Obligations on road users

To benefit from Scholar Patrol and enhance the effectiveness thereof for road safety, road users such as motorists need to oblige with responsible behaviour as well:

- Obey the rules of the road.
- Do not stop and park across the red and yellow demarcated areas outside school gates.
- Do not obstruct the scholar patrol's view of oncoming traffic thereby endangering the lives of pedestrians.
- When scholar patrol team members politely ask the parents to move their vehicles and record the registration numbers as they have been instructed, accept these directives!
- Do not abuse the team members by shouting at them or making rude gestures.

More information

Please visit the Arrive Alive website at www.arrivealive.co.za