



# AAA School Safety Patrol



Patrol Advisor Training



# Welcome!

Hosted by:  
AAA Northeast  
Public Affairs

[AAA.com/SafetyPatrol](http://AAA.com/SafetyPatrol)

Visit [AAA.com/Community](http://AAA.com/Community) for local contacts!



# Background



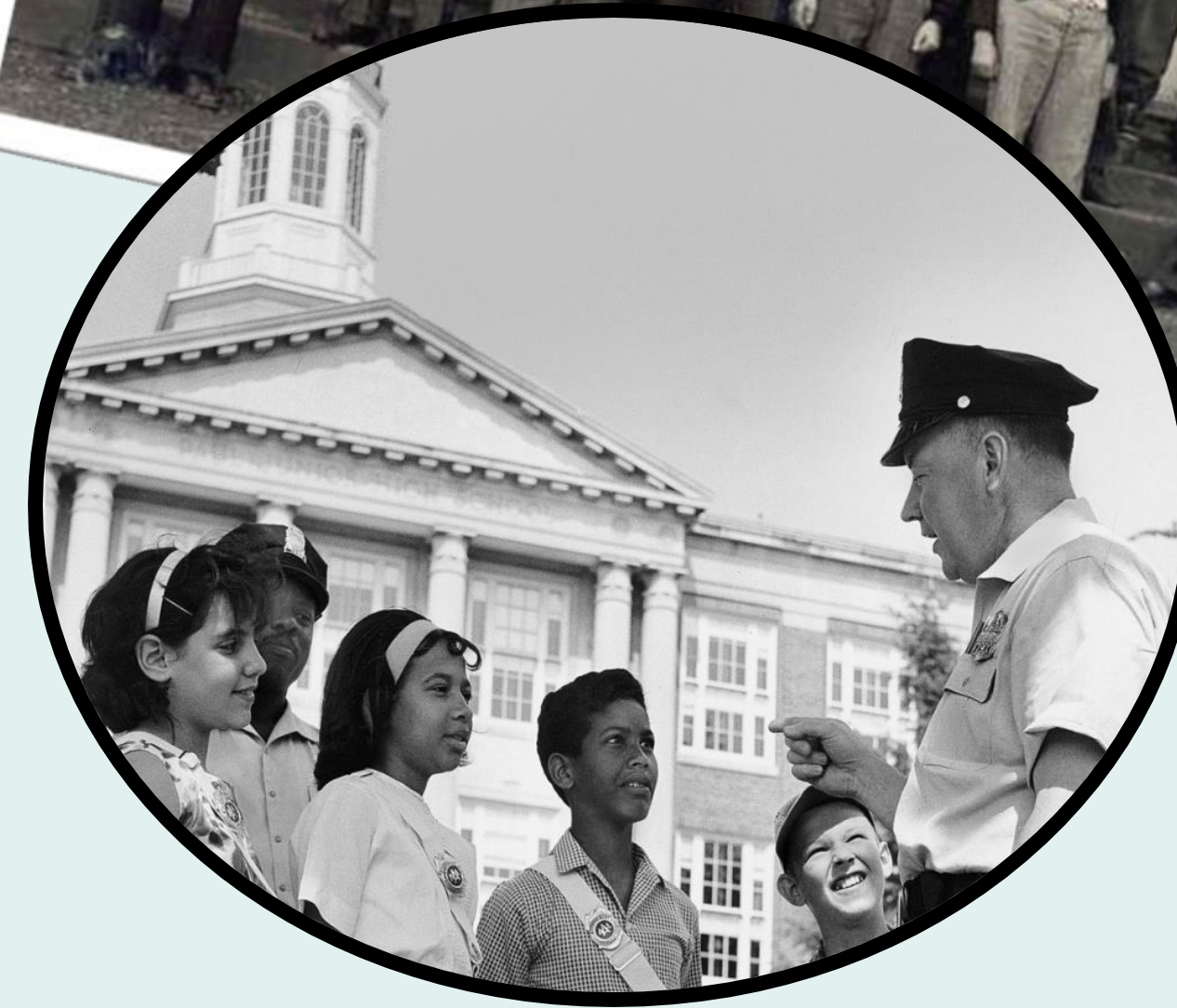
Serving in its 100th year, the AAA School Safety Patrol program has more than 679,000 Patrollers in 35,000 U.S. schools.

The AAA School Safety Patrol Program plays an important role in helping pedestrians learn and fulfill responsibilities regarding traffic safety.

Education and safety groups have praised the program for reducing injuries and fatalities among schoolchildren ages 5 to 14.



# A 100 Year Legacy of Leadership and Safety



As members of the AAA School Safety Patrol, students have protected their classmates since 1920.





# Operations Overview



# Organizing Your Patrol | General

## Securing Official School Authorization

Before the school institutes the AAA School Safety Patrol program, they may have to obtain approval from the district administration or school board. The approval process will vary according to community and school districts.

## Parental Permission

Students must have permission from parents or legal guardians to participate in the AAA School Safety Patrol Program.

## Limiting Liability

Although AAA is unaware of any legal liability cases involving Patrol programs since the inception of the program in 1920, schools can take steps to minimize perceived liability and concerns.

## Partnership

The most effective Patrol programs come from a strong partnership between AAA, schools, parent/teacher groups, law enforcement and the community.



**'No Adult, No Patrol' rule:** This rule is without exception. If there is no adult present to supervise, the Patrol's duties will be canceled for that shift. The Captain should attempt to contact the principal as soon as possible to report the cancellation.

# Organizing Your Patrol | Patrol Advisor



The AAA School Safety Patrol Advisor is a responsible adult appointed by the school to oversee the Patrol. More than any other individual, the Advisor determines the program's success!



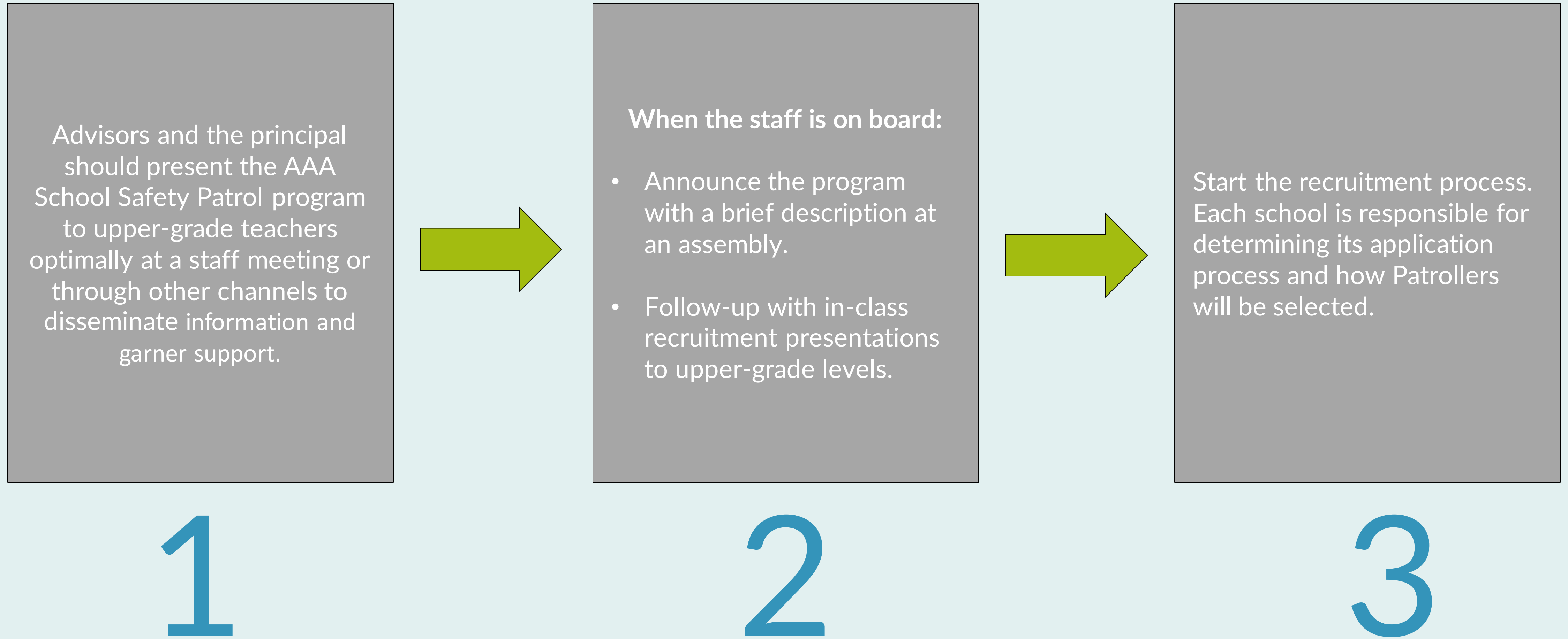


## Advisors' duties include:

- 1 | Serving as the source of information on all aspects of the program
- 2 | Selecting Patrollers and assigning duties
- 3 | Training all Patrollers, including officers
- 4 | Supervising all Patrol operations
- 5 | Conducting training sessions, reviews and administrative meetings
- 6 | Advising sponsoring committees on the Patrol's activities
- 7 | Identifying and training an assistant or reserve Advisor
- 8 | Promote student cooperation, pride and efficiency in the Patrol



# Operating Your Patrol | Recruiting



All students should have the opportunity to apply even if they don't meet the requirements in the eyes of their teachers or others. Doing so constitutes their desire to volunteer and serve their communities without promise of compensation. This is a great first step for all students!

# Operating Your Patrol | Training

## Vital information to cover in training:

- Fundamentals of traffic safety
- Duties of each Patrol post
- Identifying sufficient gaps in traffic to allow for a safe crossing
- Special hazards
- Dealing with pedestrians and bicyclists
- School bus safety procedures
- Safety procedures on school grounds
- Maintaining records (for officers)
- Uniform wear and equipment care

## School training may be conducted via:

- Classes
- On-the-job personal direction
- Written guidelines and oral or written quizzes
- Joint clinics held in cooperation with other schools and involving new and veteran Patrollers
- Training videos from your local AAA club or the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, followed by discussion
- Diagramming a duty corner and highlighting hazards and a plan for the specific crossing
- School bus drills
- Any combination of the above

## Training Camps:

- Ideally scheduled just before the school semester begins
- Provide an opportunity to combine traffic safety education with fun activities
- Partner with law enforcement, local safety experts and representatives from your local AAA club, veteran Patrollers, and older alumni to lead class sessions
- Most camps end with an exam and graduation ceremony
- *Be creative!*

Thorough training is more than just recommended. It's an absolute necessity put in place to protect Patrollers, other students and the school. **Safety always comes first at AAA.**



# Operating Your Patrol | Working Together



## Working with other Patrollers:

- If a Patroller is working at a post with another Patroller, both should stand in the holding position with one person facing the street and the other facing the approaching students.
- Both Patrollers check for traffic.
- When they both agree there is a safe gap in traffic, they step aside and motion for the students to cross.
- Both Patrollers continue looking all ways for approaching or turning vehicles.
- Remember, teamwork is essential!



## Working with Law Enforcement:

In many communities, law enforcement officers work directly with Patrols. They serve not only as mentors but also as Safety Patrol coordinators who contribute to operations, training and development.

*Law enforcement can make an important contribution to the success of your program, including:*

- Promoting motorist awareness of Patrols
- Promoting community respect for Patrols
- Contributing to Patrol training



## Working with Adult Crossing Guards:

- The adult crossing guard looks for oncoming traffic and helps find a safe time to cross.
- The Patroller holds students at the curb in the holding position until receiving the crossing guard's signal that it is safe to cross.
- Patrollers should never attempt to stop or direct traffic and should always follow the crossing guard's directions.
- Return to the holding position after students cross or the guard signals that it is no longer safe to cross.



**Remember, only police officers and adult crossing guards can stop vehicles.**



# Operating Your Patrol | Concerns







# Safety Patroller Overview



# Safety Patroller | Role

## Patrollers should demonstrate:

Leadership qualities

Maturity

Reliability

Ability to follow rules and actively listen

Punctuality

Interest in traffic, pedestrian & bicycle safety

Sound judgement

Good attendance record

Courtesy for others

Respect

Desire to help others

Ability to perform duties



AAA School Safety Patrol members are school sponsored student volunteers from upper elementary and middle schools.



# Safety Patroller | Duties

## Patrollers' duties include:



1 | Complete traffic safety training

2 | Protect students from the hazards of crossing roads on their way to and from school

3 | Assist bus drivers in safely transporting students to and from school

4 | Teach fellow students about traffic safety

5 | Serve other leadership functions under the direction of school officials

6 | Serves as role models for younger children



**Patrollers direct children, not traffic!**



# Safety Patroller | Eligibility



## Eligible students must:

- Be enrolled in grades 4 through 8
- Successfully complete AAA School Safety Patrol training
- Submit a Patrol Application with parental consent
- Meet your school's participation requirements



# Safety Patroller | Application



## AAA School Safety Patrol

### PATROLLER APPLICATION

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (First, Middle, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

AAA School Safety Patrollers need to be honest, considerate, responsible students. In the space below, write a short essay that details a time when you have acted responsibly, and why you believe you would be a good candidate for the AAA School Safety Patrol.

### Patrollers are expected to:

- Arrive early to school or stay late after school on the days they are assigned to be at their post
- Stay on top of their schoolwork
- Commit to setting an example while on and off duty
- Review the application process

### Application process may include:

- Interested students taking home an informational package, including an application and a letter explaining how qualified applications will be selected and noting that space on the Patrol is limited
- Interested students returning the application by a due date
- The Advisor reviewing the applications and forwarding selections to the principal for final approval
- Informing selected students and notifying them of when their training and Patrol service will begin
- Distributing a list of Patrollers to teachers so they are aware of which students may arrive late to class or need to leave early
- Training reserve Patrollers to account for attrition



# Safety Patroller | Pledge



## AAA School Safety Patrol Pledge

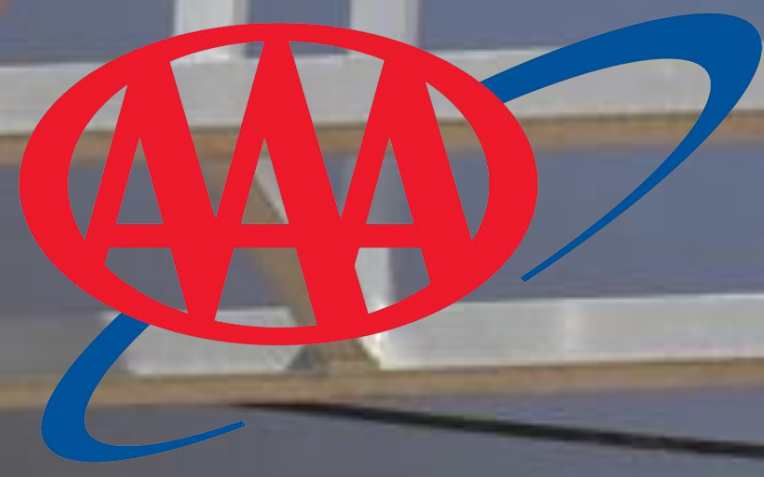
I promise to do my best to:

- Report for duty on time
- Perform my duties faithfully
- Strive to prevent traffic crashes, always setting a good example myself
- Obey my teachers and officers of the Patrol
- Report dangerous student practices
- Strive to earn the respect of fellow students

## Golden Rules of Service

1. Treat others as you would like to be treated
2. Patrollers, including officers, will perform post duties as needed to ensure the integrity of service and the safety of the community
3. No Patroller is above performing any duty as circumstances dictate





Supporting  
Your Patrol



# Supporting Your Patrol | Benefits



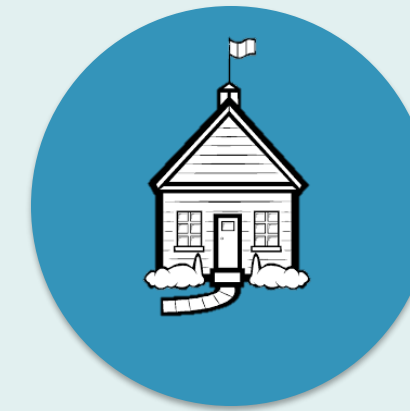
## Students gain:

- Safety awareness
- Pride
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Citizenship
- Respect for law enforcement



## Communities benefit from:

- Safer environments for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists
- A spirit of a connected community, volunteerism and civic-mindedness
- A positive collaboration between students, parents, schools and law enforcement



## Schools benefit from opportunities to promote:

- Traffic safety awareness
- Peer-to-peer education
- Character-building opportunities
- A constructive outlet for students' energy
- A positive relationship with parents, law enforcement and the overall community





# Supporting Your Patrol | Fundraising

Schools across the country have raised funds for their Patrol by:



Hosting a movie for students and selling popcorn



Creating buttons or stickers for a small cost

Setting up a booth at a town street fair or similar community celebration and providing face painting or simple goods or services

Holding a bake sale



Selling plants or seedlings obtained from the Parks dept.



Holding a safety fair and inviting AAA, the Red Cross or other safety organizations to participate



Holding car washes



Offering a gift-wrapping service at the holidays

Challenging students to a walk-a-thon, bike-a-thon (with helmets!) or bowl-a-thon and asking sponsors to pledge contributions

Collecting recyclables



Contacting fundraising companies that provide sale items





# Supporting Your Patrol | Partnership Roles

The most effective Patrol programs come from a strong partnership between AAA, schools, parent-teacher groups, law enforcement and the community.

## The Role of AAA

- Public outreach and recognition
- Sponsorship
- Resources, including equipment and program guidelines
- Traffic safety education, logistical support and awareness presentations

## The Role of the School

Principals appoint teachers to serve as Patrol Advisors. Advisors implement AAA School Safety Patrols within the school and meet with other area Advisors to exchange best practices.

## The Role of the Parent-Teacher Group

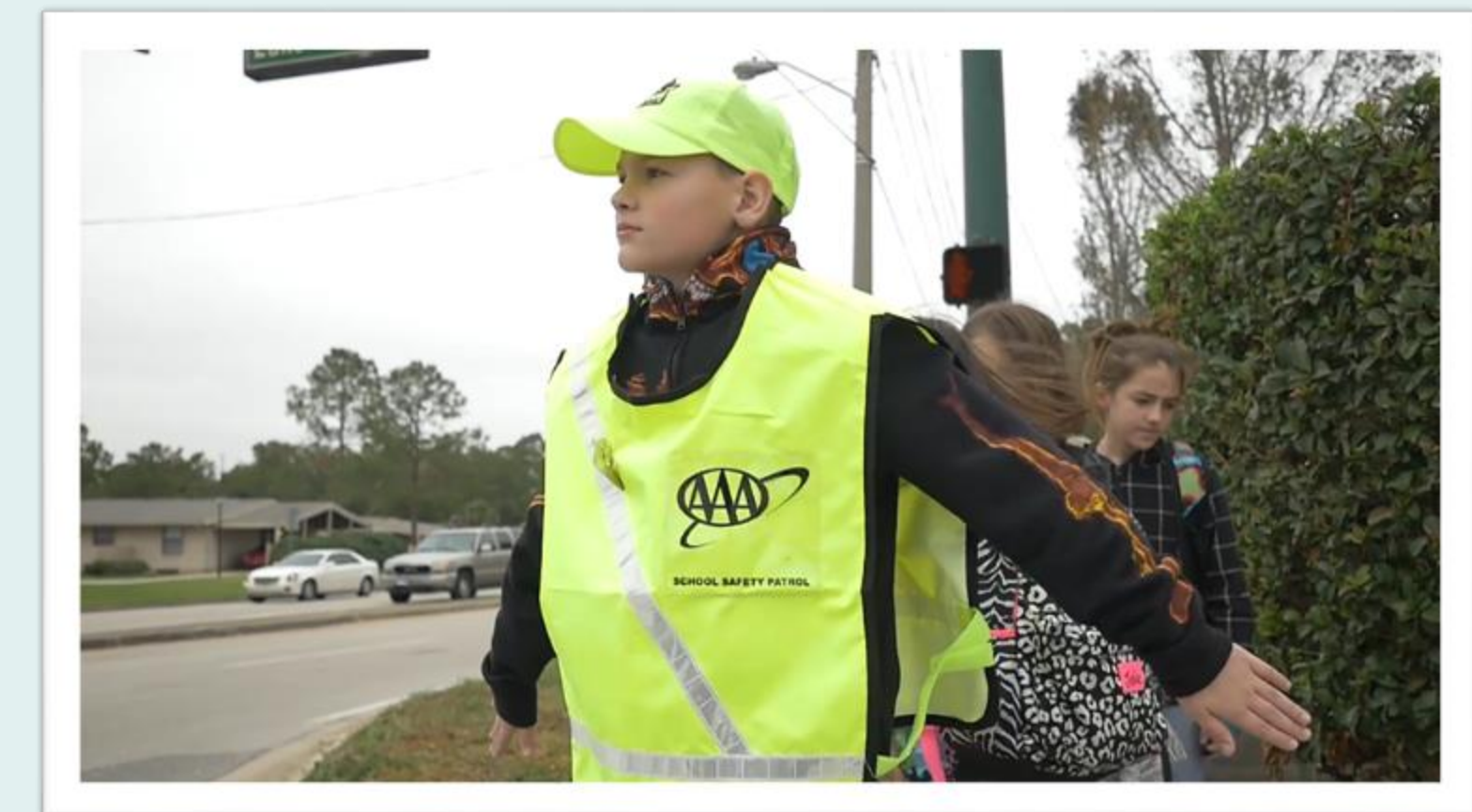
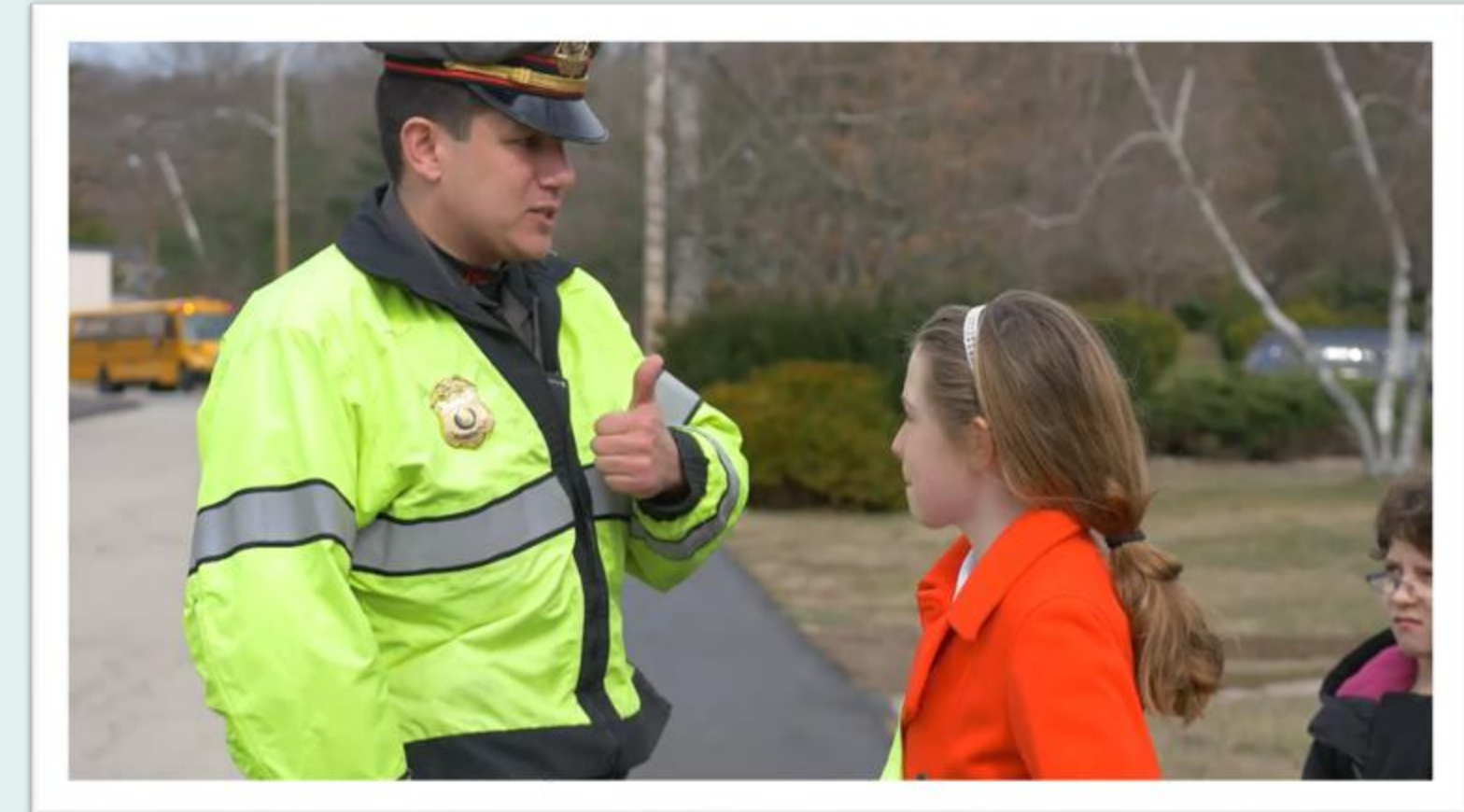
- Supports the school's Patrol program
- Serves as the liaison between the school and community
- Implements recognition programs
- Sponsors equipment and training

## The Role of Law Enforcement or Traffic Engineering Officials

- Serve as a program consultant
- Advocate on the Patrol's behalf to motorists and the community
- Contribute to the Patrol's training and development

## The Role of the Community

Civic organizations may provide recognition and community awareness programs.





# Supporting Your Patrol | Recognition

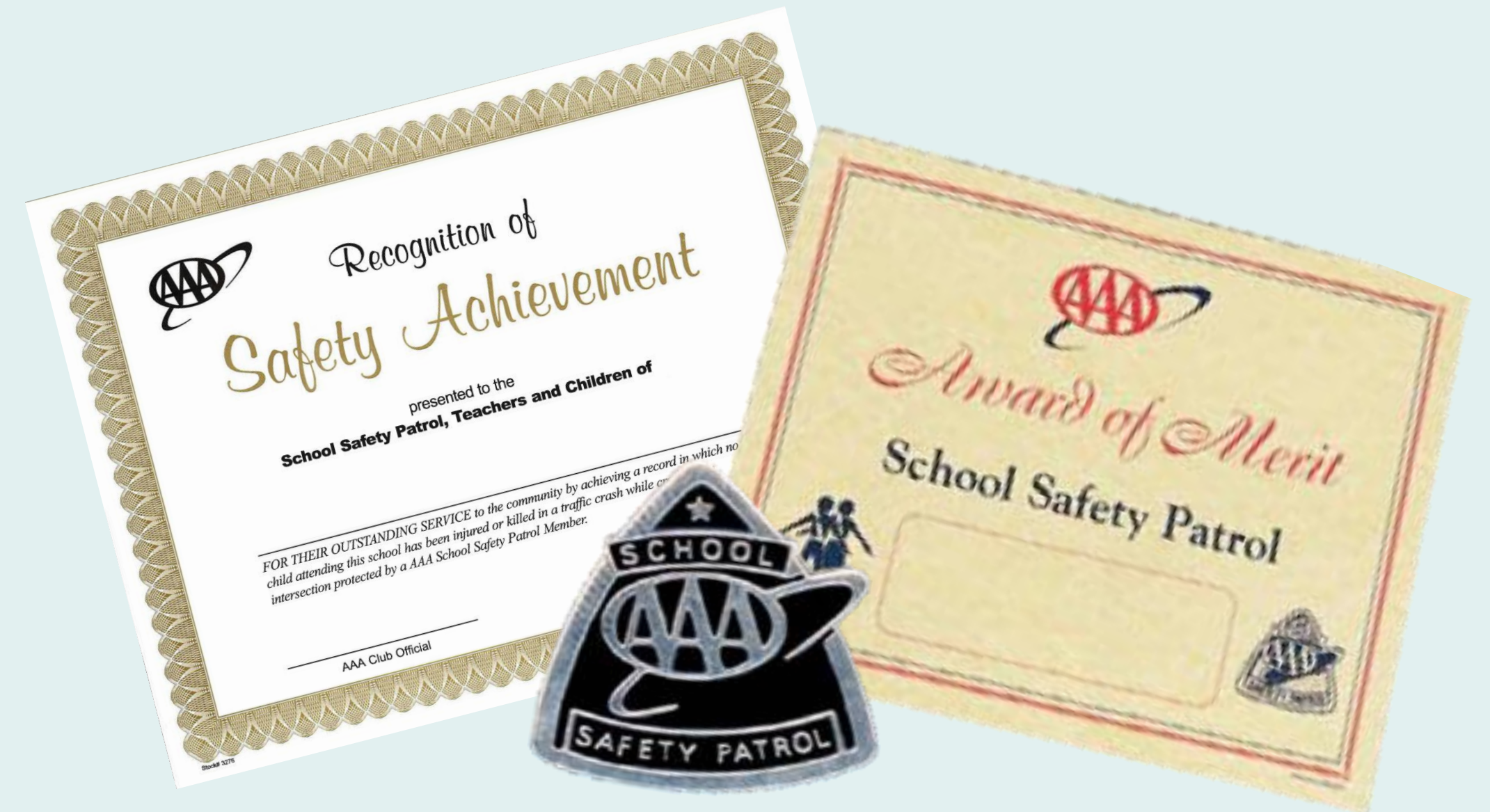
## Morale Building

A role of the Advisor is to maintain the enthusiasm and commitment of the Patrol team. The more a school community supports and recognizes the Patrollers' responsibilities, the higher their morale. A **Certificate of Recognition** and merit pins are available for students who complete service as a Patroller. These can be presented at school assemblies or patrol events.



### Suggested activities to build pride and morale:

- Hold bimonthly meetings
- Reserve a section of the school newsletter to Safety Patrol news.
- Recognize a Patroller of the Week/Month
- Host special events such as pizza parties, movie outings, sporting events, end-of-the year celebrations, etc.
- *Be creative!*





# Supporting Your Patrol | Recognition

## Lifesaving Medal

In 1949, AAA awarded the first Lifesaving Medals to recognize Patrollers who saved a life or prevented the injury of a fellow student while on duty. More than 422 students have received this prestigious honor. The Lifesaving Medal is awarded by an independent review board to a member of any authorized AAA School Safety Patrol.

## National Patroller of the Year

In 2002, AAA/CAA introduced the National Patroller of the Year award to recognize Patrollers who best exemplify leadership qualities while performing their duties effectively and responsibly, without incident.

School Safety Patrol Advisors may nominate one current-year Patroller. Local AAA/CAA clubs select the National Patroller of the Year.

Contact your AAA club for instructions on how to apply!







# Resources



# Resources | Safety Patrol Materials



## At Your Post Training Video

- This video serves as a resource to community organizations, school administrators, and law enforcement agencies to aid in coordinating a AAA School Safety Patrol Safety Patrol program locally.
- Link: [AAA.com/AtYourPost](https://www.aaa.com/AtYourPost)



## AAA School Safety Patrol Operations Manual

- The policies and practices presented in the manual are the result of the combined efforts of several national educational, law enforcement and safety organizations. It represents the cumulative experience of AAA School Safety Patrol operations across North America.



## AAA School Safety Patrol Website



## AAA School Safety Patrol Program Catalog

- Printed materials, awards, equipment and other resources are available to support your AAA School Safety Patrol program. Schools and municipalities should order from their local AAA club. Available materials include:

### Printed Materials, Guides and Forms

- Handbooks
- Brochures
- Manuals
- Captain's Record Book
- Policies and Practices

### Recognition Awards

- Certificates
- Patches
- Pins

### Patrol Equipment

- Belts or vests
- Badges
- Caps
- Ponchos
- Flags

These tools are everything you need to create a new or expand an existing Patrol!





Related  
Programs





# SCHOOL'S *Open* DRIVE *Carefully*

Launched in 1946, AAA's "School's Open — Drive Carefully" awareness campaign was created to help reduce child pedestrian fatalities and injuries.

The campaign aims to reduce the number of traffic crashes involving school-age pedestrians and school bus riders by reminding drivers to be extra-cautious.

Participating schools may obtain colorful posters, magnets, yard signs, banners, and other items to help promote careful driving in school zones. Contact your local club for details.



# Bike Safety Campaign

Bicyclist deaths reached 840 in 2016, the highest number recorded in the United States since 1991 according to the latest data from NHTSA.

This campaign aims to bring awareness and provides helpful tips that children, parents, adult cyclists and motorists can use to stay safe on the roadways.

AAA remains committed to bike safety and share the road. Contact your local club for updated statistics.





# Halloween



**BE SMART.**

**Be safe.**

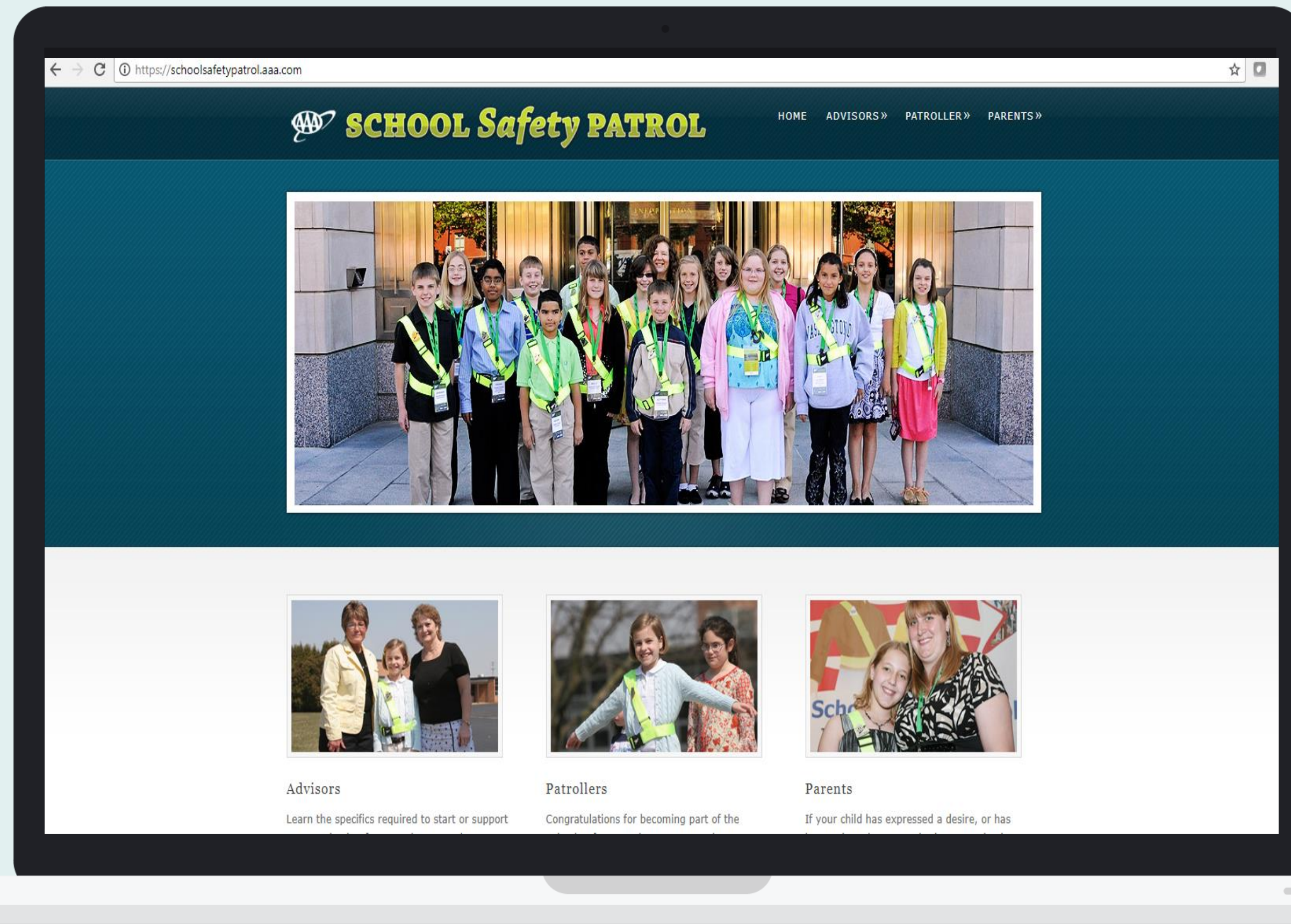
**BE SEEN.**

Children are 4xs more likely to be struck by a motor vehicle on Halloween than any other day of the year.

As the motorists most trusted and vocal advocate, clubs across the country promote AAA's annual Halloween safety campaign by encouraging motorists to drive safely while a high number of children are on the move.

Participating schools may obtain colorful treat bags, activity sheets, bookmarks, and other items to help promote safety. Contact your local club for details.





## Questions/Comments?

If questions and concerns come up, please email your local state contact!  
Visit [AAA.com/Community](https://www.aaa.com/Community)



Remember resources can be found at [AAA.com/safetypatrol](https://www.aaa.com/safetypatrol)



# Thank you!

