

Say "thanks" to your Crossing Guard!



April is "Crossing Guard Appreciation Month" !

Crossing Guards help students cross the street safely throughout the year in all weather conditions. Please recognize their hard work by participating in Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, a statewide event, devoted to saying thank you.

Minnesota Safe Routes to School (MnSRTS) has designated the second Wednesday in April as Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. We encourage your school and community to use this day to show your appreciation for any of the trained adults, such as a police officers, teachers, school staff, or volunteers, who help make safe routes to school a reality. If the second Wednesday doesn't work, celebrate Crossing Guard Appreciation Day any day in April.

Event ideas include ways to say thank you in person, promote the work of your crossing guard, and ways to support their work. Most important is to offer a heart-felt thank you. Flyers, templates, banners, and other materials for your Crossing Guard Appreciation Day are at www.mnsaferoutestoschool.org/resources/encouragement.html.

- Say Thank You, in person!
- Students, families, and the community can host a meet and greet with coffee, hot chocolate, and 'comfort food'
- Students should be encouraged to walk or bike and thank their crossing guard in-person.
- Students can use ready-made thank you cards available on the MnSRTS website or make their own cards
- Teachers can help students write songs, cheers, or poems thanking the crossing guard for their help.
- Principals can use a ready-made card online or write official letters of appreciation.
- Schools can think up new ideas of their own! Anything that expresses gratitude for service is an eligible activity.

April is "Crossing Guard Appreciation Month" ! *(continued)*

Promote their work

- Contact local media sources to highlight your crossing guard for a personal interest story.
- Make a video of your crossing guard at work to post on your website, share with media, or use to promote SRTS

Support their work

Apply for a Mini-grant to upgrade crossing guard equipment such as stop paddles, reflective vests, etc.

Teaching Opportunity

While the focus of Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is on crossing guards and the work that they do, it can also be a good time to remind students how to cross streets safely, especially when crossing guards are present.

Important Messages for Students

- Cross with the help of an adult or older sibling. And older students to help younger siblings cross the street.
- Wait at least 3 steps away from the edge of the sidewalk or curb.
- Stay on the sidewalk until the crossing guard gives the signal that it is safe to cross.
- Always look left-right-left, as well as behind and then watch the crossing guard to see if it is safe to cross.
- Always cross in front of the crossing guard.
- Only walk in the marked crosswalk when crossing the street.
- If there is no marked crosswalk, walk directly in front of the crossing guards; make a straight line to opposite side
- Obey crossing guards at all times. The crossing guard may see a potential threat that is not clear to students.
- Thank their crossing guards for the work that they do every day. They are valuable members of the community.

Still have questions?

Email us at info@mnsaferoutestoschool.org.

Nominate Your Crossing Guard

Nominating your school's crossing guards as one of Minnesota's Most Outstanding Crossing Guards of 2015 is an extra special way to let them know that their service is valued. You can find the link to the nomination form on the Minnesota Safe Routes to School website.

No Crossing Guard at Your School?

Not all schools have crossing guards. Schools interested in having a crossing guard at their campus can reach out to the school division's transportation office or the local police department. In some school divisions, school staff can be trained by the local police department as crossing guards. Contact your local police.



Minnesota Safe Routes to School combines the expertise of multiple state agencies together with national and local partners to provide parent, school and community groups with the resources needed to support walking and biking to school.

To learn more about **Minnesota Safe Routes to School**, visit www.mnsaferoutestoschool.org

"Crossing Guard Appreciation Month" is April!

Your Crossing Guards are always there for you ...
in good weather and bad ... so do something nice for them.

Write a note. Bring them a treat. And above all, say, "THANK YOU!"

Nominate your crossing guard for the Outstanding Crossing Guard Award!

- Anyone who helps students cross the street is eligible (teachers, volunteers, police officers, etc.)
- Submit nominations on the MnSRTS website (www.mnsaferoutestoschool.org) by March 19, 2016

For more information, contact:

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