




SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School



Safe Walking and Bicycling Activities for \$1,000 or Less

Safe Routes to School Mini-Grants

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Today's Discussion


Goal: Learn low-cost activities – tailored to your school's needs – that engage students in safe walking and bicycling

- Overview
- Activities
- Lessons learned
- Snapshots




Safe Routes to School Basics

- Federal program in SAFETEA-LU
- K – 8th grade students
- Trips between home and school (two mile radius)



Mini-grant Overview

- \$1,000 mini-grants - One school semester
- 84 recipients from 3 rounds
- Criteria:
 - Increase safety and/or increase safe walkers/bicyclists
 - Involve students
 - (Spring 2010) Connect SRTS to physical activity or environment



Spring 2010



Fall 2010



Safety #2: Improving Infrastructure

- Crossing guard equipment
- Improve existing infrastructure
 - Fencing
 - Reinforce existing wooden structures
(Labor: **volunteer or student service-learning project**)
 - **Leverage funds** to install boardwalk, walking track
 - Repaint crosswalks
- Bike racks



Activities: Increasing Walkers/Bicyclists

- Walking school bus / bicycle train
 - “Walking Buddies” program
- **Journaling about all transportation choices**
- **Social marketing campaign**
- Mural painting (walls or streets)
- Map creation



Activities: Increasing Physical Activity

- **Triathlon: walking, bicycling, health**
- Group walks & bicycle rides
- Track mileage via pedometers
 - Mileage contests: Across state, USA, etc.
- **Bike blender**
- After school walking/bicycling clubs



Activities: Environmental Impacts

- Air quality
 - Car-free Wednesdays
 - **Air quality experiment**
 - Trapping vehicle emissions using Vaseline and index cards
 - **Air quality game**
 - “No idling” signage & campaign
- Environmental footprint calculator



Activities: Education

- Safety Education
 - Classroom pedestrian/bicycle lessons
 - **Bicycle rodeo**
 - Bicycle repair clinic
 - Peer education
- Overall academic experience
 - Improve grades and/or behavior to earn bicycle & helmet
 - Integrate walking & bicycling into math, science, social studies classes
 - **Attendance and timeliness**



Activities: Civic Participation

- **Presentations to City Councils**
 - Letters to local officials
- **Civic responsibility discussions**
- Participation in local school siting decision
 - Video of parents' and grandparents' memories of walking to school
- Advocacy discussions



Advice from Awardees

- Think **BIG!** (and it's OK to start small, too)
- Engage multiple champions at school, in PTA
- Be realistic about what's possible during 1 semester
- Use local, state, online resources to help organize program
- Have fun!



Challenges that are good to have

- Too many kids in the walking school bus
- Leave more time for discussion – very engaging
- Kids complained group rides were too short



Snapshot: Denver, CO

- Comprehensive
 - Pedestrian & bicycle safety education
 - Walk audit with city planner
 - Bicycle rodeo
 - **“Buddy teaching” between grades**
 - Information retention assessment



Snapshot: Karnes City, TX

- Bicycle safety education
- Bicycle repair clinic
- Group rides
- **Contract with principal: improve grades or behavior to earn bicycle & helmet**
- Chores around school to earn parts



Snapshot: Pinehurst, NC

- Walkability assessment
- Weekly walking school buses + “Drive Less” campaign
- Safety officer training for students
- Greenway beautification
- Presentation to City Council
- **Result: City Council added \$150,000 to 2010-2011 budget for greenway improvements**



Webinar

www.saferoutesinfo.org - Look under “Resources”

Presentations from Mini-grant recipients in

- Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Omaha, Nebraska
- Olympia, Washington

