



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

School Police Volunteer Patrol

In September 2002, the San Diego School Police Volunteer Patrol (SPVP) unit was formed by two Community Service Officers, under the direction of their Lieutenant. Because student safety is their number one priority, and after months of research, they determined which schools most needed a Parent Safety Patrol. In December, a pilot program was launched at Horton Elementary.

Parents, community members, school staff and students had expressed their concerns about student safety before and after school. The main purpose of the Volunteer Patrol is to be the eyes and ears for School Police and school administration regarding the safety of all students.

SPVP consists of parent volunteers and community members donned in brightly colored orange and yellow striped safety vests and whistles with two-way radios connecting them to school administration or the school's Community Service Officer. Every school day in 45 minute segments, beginning one-half hour before and one-half hour after school, SPVP assists the Safety Patrol at crosswalks in front of the school, surrounding streets and perimeters.

Additionally, they jot down license plate numbers of speeding motorists and report them to School Police who issue warnings or citations. This has reduced parking problems, as well as the number of speeders and motorists who park in red, no parking zones.

Not surprising is SPVP's dedication to guarding students' safety during Intersession and special events after regular school hours. Parents worked out a system whereby they could trade shifts during special events, enabling all parents to enjoy the school festivities.

Since implementing SPVP at Horton Elementary, 10 other schools have initiated programs. School Police Services anticipates that an additional 10 schools will participate in the 2004 - 05 school year. Before the end of each school year, School Police honors the hard work and dedication of the volunteers at a recognition ceremony.

Before parents and community members can volunteer for SPVP, they are required to complete an application for approval, available online at http://www.sandi.net/pdf/comm_ntbk.pdf page 80 and must agree to background checks. These checks include a criminal history computer check and consult Megan's Law. For more information about San Diego Police Services, please visit the website at <http://www.sandi.net/policeservices/>.

SUMMARY

- ❖ Student safety is the primary goal of the San Diego School Police Volunteer Patrol (SPVP)
- ❖ SPVP acts as the eyes and ears for SDCS Police and school administration
- ❖ Parents, community members and school administration join together to form the SPVP
- ❖ SPVP assist the Safety Patrol at crosswalks in front of the schools and surrounding streets
- ❖ To be a SPVP, candidates are required to complete an approval application and agree to background checks, including a criminal history computer check and Megan's Law
- ❖ There are 10 schools currently involved with SPVP

Contact Information: Police Services Department: Administration - (619) 725-7000
Dispatch - (619) 291-7678

www.sandi.net
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