

# DIY Walk to School Day



# Agenda

- Overview
- Importance of Pedestrian Safety
- What is Walk to School Day
- Event Planning Ideas & Resources
- Additional Resources



# Suncoast Safe Kids Coalition

- Coalition area includes Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota Counties
- Members include injury prevention professionals and community advocates
  - Fire Rescue Public Educators
  - Business Leaders
  - Municipal/Govt Employees
  - PTA members
  - Child Safety Advocates
- Sponsored by All Children's Hospital



# Why This is Important

- Pedestrian-related accidents are the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of unintentional deaths to children ages 5-14
- Increased physical activity can help to reduce childhood obesity rates
- Environmental concerns from greenhouse gases/auto emissions
- Budget restrictions requiring districts to offer fewer buses

# Walk to School Day

- International Walk to School Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 9, 2013
- Fedex is National Sponsor with Safe Kids USA of Walk this Way on International Walk to School Day
- Participated in Walk this Way since 2001
- Meant to bring awareness to pedestrian safety on the part of schools, motorists, parents, students, greater community
- Can be used to launch sustained pedestrian and bicycle safety programs, such as a Walking School Bus and Safe Routes to School programming

# What to Do on Walk to School Day

Ideas Include:

- Off-campus walk to school
- In classroom presentations
- School-wide contests
- Before care/After care activities
- Whatever fits best for your school

# Walk Ideas

## Where to Start:

- Choose location no more than about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from campus
- Get permission from land owner to meet there
- Check route condition – sidewalks, crosswalks, etc
- Do a test walk

# Walk to School

Who can help:

- PTA, community partners provide additional supervision for the event
- Local law enforcement may help secure chosen route
- Surrounding business community may help provide sponsorships
- Local Safe Kids Coalition, Health Dept, Community Traffic Safety Teams have educational material



# Walk to School

## How to Get the Word Out:

- School Calendar
- School Newsletter
- Reverse calling
- Invitations (local politicians and media too)
- Include pedestrian safety tips in material

# Walk to School

Activities may Include:

- Registration
- Educational information while gathering
- Walk
- Goody bags/Reward/Certificate of Completion

# In Classroom Presentations

- PE – crosswalk safety demonstration
- Language Arts – reading assignments on pedestrian safety
- Math – include bicycle safety/traffic safety calculations
- Science – pollution reduction from less traffic
- Art – coloring contest featuring pedestrian and/or bicycle safety

# School-wide Competitions

- Coloring contests
- Banner decoration contests
- Grade level/Class competition for pedestrian safety jingles that can be read on morning announcements/school tv
- Media Center display
- Whatever matches your school's interests and student body

# Before care/After care Activities

- Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Bingo
- Abbreviated versions of earlier suggestions
- Safety videos

# How to Register

- [www.walkbiketoschool.org](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org)

## Extra Credit

- Judge Karl Grube “Extra Mile” Award application following event

# Additional Web Resources

- General information
  - [www.allkids.org/walk](http://www.allkids.org/walk)
  - [www.iwalktoschool.org](http://www.iwalktoschool.org)
- Promotional items
  - [www.pedbikesrc.ce.ufl.edu](http://www.pedbikesrc.ce.ufl.edu)
- Safe Routes to School
  - [www.allkids.org/srts](http://www.allkids.org/srts)
  - [www.srtsfl.org](http://www.srtsfl.org)

# Questions?

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