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# Parents on Patrol with Seniors

A Program to Enhance School Safety

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## Washington State PTA

2003 65th Avenue West, Tacoma, WA 98466-6215, (253) 565-2153 or toll free 1-800-562-3804  
Email: [wapta@wastatepta.org](mailto:wapta@wastatepta.org), Website: [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org)

The Washington State PTA is attempting to bring you "Programs to Go!" which will feature various successful PTA programs for you to pick up and use if you choose. These programs will come to you already organized, with minimal work on your part. Look for more "Programs to Go!" ideas in upcoming general mailings. If you have program suggestions, please call the Washington State PTA office at (253) 565-2153 or 1-800-562-3804 or email to [wapta@wastatepta.org](mailto:wapta@wastatepta.org).

**PROGRAMS TO GO!**

# A Program That Keeps School Grounds Safe

In this program, parents and senior citizens patrol school grounds whenever children are outside — recesses, lunch, and before and after school.

Parent and senior citizen volunteers receive special identification badges and walk up and down the sidewalks surrounding the school and on the playground.

Children know that if they

need help they can ask one of those volunteers wearing the special identification badges.

This is a very inexpensive way to help ensure the safety of children at school and can be organized by elementary, middle or high school PTAs.

It is also an effective way of drawing senior citizen volunteers to the schools.

## Goals of this program

- To ensure the safety of children while at school.
- To reassure children that there are special grown-ups nearby that can help them if needed.

## Planning your program...

1. Describe the proposed program to members at a general PTA meeting or send information home with children in their back-to-school parent pack. Invite interested parent(s) to volunteer to chair or co-chair the program.
2. The chair would then identify retirement homes or senior citizen centers located near the school and arrange to present the proposed program at an annual meeting. Invite any interested senior citizen to serve as a liaison between you and the senior citizen community.
3. Identify 5-30 minute shifts that are needed for different patrol areas throughout the day. Draw up a weekly schedule of patrol shifts needed. Invite parents to volunteer for these shifts and forward the schedule to the senior citizen liaison to encourage senior citizens to sign up for shifts. Encourage people to take one shift a week or possibly share their shift with a friend so they patrol only twice a month. Reassure potential volunteers that even if they can only help out once a month, their help is greatly appreciated.
4. Make badges for people who have volunteered. Provide them with information on what to look out for and where their patrol will take place.
5. Send information on the program home with the children in the PTA monthly newsletter, as well as the schedule of who is signed up for the month. Provide the senior citizen liaison with multiple copies of the PTA newsletter as well.
6. Publicize your event. This could include posters at your school; advertisements in your local unit newsletter; in local newspapers, and on local radio stations.
7. At the end of the school year, recognize the volunteers that helped out with this program. Make a plaque listing all the senior citizen volunteers to be displayed at the senior citizen home. Present the plaque to the participating senior citizens at a PTA meeting or a special dessert in their honor.

This program was submitted by Shelton View Elementary PTA in Bothell.