

Welcome to the Safe Routes to School Quick Start Guide!



For over 20 years, Safe Routes programs in Oregon have helped kids stay active and healthy, build confidence, and develop lifelong traffic safety skills—all while making neighborhoods safer and more connected. With so many great resources out there, it can be hard to know where to start. This toolkit is a quick-start guide—an easy way for schools to begin or grow their Safe Routes efforts. Inside, you'll find practical tips, proven strategies, and ready-to-use materials to help get your program rolling.



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Walk and Roll to School Days are a fun, easy way to get students and families excited about walking and biking to school. These events bring the school community together and give kids a chance to try out active transportation in a safe, supportive setting. They're often just the boost kids need to start walking or rolling more often on their own. Schools can host them once a year, every month, or whenever it works best—there's no wrong way to roll!



IDEAS

October - International Walk & Roll to School Day
Join kids around the world on this day.



November - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
Learn more about who Ruby was and what she did



February - Winter Walk & Roll
Make it cozy with warm hats, gloves, and hot cocoa!

April - Earth Month
Walking and biking to school are earth friendly choices.

May - Walk & Roll Challenge
Make it a week long challenge with prizes!



QUICK TIP

Ask local businesses like bakeries or grocery stores for snack donations. Many businesses already have a system in place for making small donations to non-profits or schools.

MAKE IT FUN!

**MUSIC
SNACKS
BIKE CHECKS
BINGO
RAFFLES
PRIZES**

Spotify playlist



Bingo cards



Order incentives





IDEAS

Connect with Parent Teacher Organizations, Senior Centers, and High School Clubs to recruit volunteers.



STRATEGY

Success depends on committed adult volunteers. Parents can share the responsibility with a rotating schedule, or support can come from the broader community—seniors, older students, and other local volunteers.

Walking School Buses and Bike Trains are a great way to make getting to school fun, social, and safe! With a group of kids traveling together along a set route, led by trusted adults, students can enjoy the benefits of walking or biking to school while parents gain peace of mind. Whether it’s once a month, once a week or every day, starting a Walking School Bus or Bike Train is a great way to get more kids moving and smiling on their way to school.



RESOURCES

[How to Start a Bike Bus](#)

[How to Start a Walking School Bus](#)



INSPIRATION

[Walking School Bus](#)

[Alameda Bike Bus, Portland OR](#)





QUICK TIP

Partner with local law enforcement or fire departments. These agencies often sponsor safety events for youth.



INSPIRATION

[Millbrae Bike Rodeo 2024](#)



A bike rodeo is a fun, noncompetitive event where participants learn and practice essential bike handling skills to help prevent common crashes. Rodeos can range from large community events with games and exhibits to smaller setups needing just a few volunteers. The goal is to build confidence and safer cycling habits in a fun atmosphere.



RESOURCES

[An Organizer's Guide to Bike Rodeos](#)



[Bike Rodeo Guide](#)





QUICK TIP

Talk with principals, PE teachers, other school staff or interested community members about Jump Start. Once trained, these people will be educating the students, so it is important to be sure they are interested!

See what Jump Start is all about!



Fill out an interest form



The Jump Start program, part of Oregon's Safe Routes to School initiative, trains school staff and community volunteers to teach bike and pedestrian safety as well as learn to ride classes. This "train-the-trainer" model includes access to bicycle fleets, pedestrian safety kits, and ready-to-use curriculum—making it easier to promote active transportation in schools and communities.





Adult crossing guards play a vital role in helping children walk or bike to school safely. Their presence can increase parents' comfort and confidence in allowing their children to use active transportation. To ensure effectiveness, it's important to organize a well-structured program that meets Oregon's specific requirements for training and implementation.



QUICK TIP

Organize a Student Safety Patrol team. This leadership opportunity allows Patrol members to gain responsibility, confidence, and a sense of pride as they contribute to the well-being of their classmates, while schools benefit from improved traffic flow and enhanced safety at key crossing points.



RESOURCES

[Oregon Traffic Patrol Manual](#)

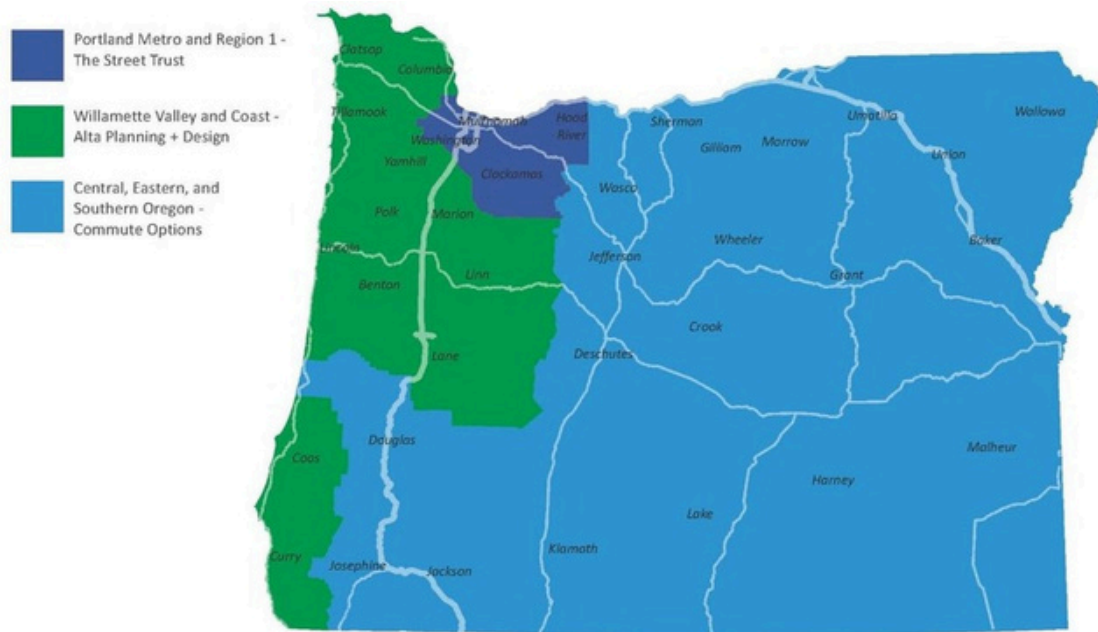


[Adult School Crossing Guard Guidelines](#)



Have questions about Oregon Safe Routes to School? Contact Us!

For general inquiries, please contact info@oregonsaferoutes.org



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