



October Walk to School Month

Making Banners, Posters, and Signs with Students

Involving students in the process of creating signs, banners, posters, and buttons gives Walk to School events a unique feel and helps to generate enthusiasm. When you involve students in the planning, they are more likely to participate in the event. Also, having students carry signs is a great way to encourage participation, inform those who are just passing by, and provide a photo opportunity for media.

Contact Teachers

Contact teachers or after-school instructors to ask if they might be interested in creating the signs, banners, posters, and buttons with their students. Some schools may want to organize making signs, banners, posters, or buttons as a multi-class activity. Younger grades can be paired with older grades for this purpose. If time and money permit, you might consider contacting the local community college or high school art department for their assistance.

Gather Materials

For signs, banners or posters, you'll need butcher paper, poster board or cardboard. You'll also need a thick black marker, non-toxic paints, brushes, containers for paint, duct tape, hole punch, rope or string, and yard sticks or paint stirrers for easy to hold handles. For buttons, you'll need a button making machine and markers or crayons. Plan for larger signs as well as smaller ones (e.g., that a student can attach to his or her bicycle).

Decide on the Slogans and Messages

Have students create slogans and messages to celebrate the event. Possible messages include: "Walk and Roll to School Day: Wednesday, October ____", "Kids Walking to School: Slow Down", "Caution: Bikes on the Move", "Walking/Biking to School is Cool!", and "It's fun to Walk to School!"

Hanging Signs

Ask the students and staff where the best location for signs around school might be. Ask students to help you hang them. If you're hanging signs made from butcher paper from a fence, it will help to duct tape the edges of the paper and punch holes through the tape. This will allow you to use rope or string to hang the signs from a fence, and you'll be able to reuse them again. Have signs ready for each greeting table the morning of the event. Give signs to students to attach to their bikes or to carry on the morning of the event, especially during a walk to school parade.

