

# Learn it. Do it. Live it!

## CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION DAY



Crossing Guards help students cross the street safely throughout the year in all weather conditions. See how your school and community can recognize their hard work by participating in Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, one of Virginia's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) statewide events.

### What is Crossing Guard Appreciation Day?

- ✓ Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is a statewide event devoted to saying thank you to those who help students cross the street safely on their way to and from school.
- ✓ The Virginia SRTS program has designated the **second Wednesday in February** as Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. We encourage your school and community to use this day to show your appreciation for the people who help make safe routes to school a reality. If the second Wednesday doesn't work, we encourage you to celebrate Crossing Guard Appreciation Day any day in February.

### Who is a Crossing Guard?

- ✓ Crossing guards are any adults who are trained to provide assistance to students crossing the street on their routes to and from school. Crossing Guards can be police officers, teachers, school staff, or volunteers.

### How to Participate?

- ✓ Whether simple or elaborate, Crossing Guard Appreciation Day events are a great way to acknowledge the value your crossing guards bring to safe travel to school.
- ✓ Event ideas here include ways to say thank you in person, promote the work of your crossing guard, and ways to support their work. Most important is to offer a heart-felt thank you.
- ✓ Flyers, templates, banners, and other downloads for your Crossing Guard Appreciation Day are at [www.virginiadot.org/saferoutes](http://www.virginiadot.org/saferoutes). Find what you're looking for under Special Events Resources.



*Phyllis Krapf, crossing guard at Armstrong Elementary School in Herdon, was named one of Virginia's Most Outstanding Crossing Guards for 2014.*

### Event Ideas

#### Say Thank You, in person!

- ✓ Students, families, and other community members can host a meet and greet with coffee, hot chocolate, and some 'comfort food' after the morning shift on a cold February morning.
- ✓ Students should be encouraged to walk or bike (bundled up appropriately!) and thank their crossing guard in-person.
- ✓ Students can use ready-made thank you cards available on the Virginia SRTS website to give to the crossing guard on their way home. Or they can make their own thank you cards in an art class.
- ✓ Teachers can help students write songs, cheers, or poems thanking the crossing guard for their help. Students can deliver their message during school dismissal.
- ✓ Principals can write official letters of appreciation and deliver them during the afternoon dismissal. Ready-made letters are also available on the Virginia SRTS website.
- ✓ Schools can think up new ideas of their own! Anything that expresses gratitude for their service is an eligible activity.

