

# Green Ways to School



## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

### Classroom Challenge: Go for the Green!

The Green Ways to School Classroom Challenge will award a cash prize to the school's class that reports the highest number of 'green trips' to school in a given month. A green trip to school is when a student walks, bikes, carpools or takes the bus to school. Your Safe Routes to Schools' parent leader will announce and publicize the official start and end date of your school's spring contest.

Scooters, skateboards, roller blades also qualify as a green trip if allowed by the school. A parent who parks and walks partway to school with their child will also count as a green trip, but only if they walk for at least 7-10 minutes after leaving their car. Bus transit includes both school buses and public transportation. A carpool is two or more families in one car; a one family carpool does not qualify as a green trip.

#### A Tree poster in every classroom

Each teacher will be given a colorful poster of a tree to hang in the classroom at the start of the challenge. The tree has no leaves on it and has been divided into four sections: Week 1, 2, 3 and 4. The poster is a visual reminder to students to make a daily effort to get to school via a green trip.

#### Leaf stickers distributed to students during morning role call

Each teacher will receive 300 leaf stickers. The adding of leaves to the tree is how the contest tracks green trips to school. One leaf = one green trip. A student who arrives at school via a green trip receives a sticker to adhere to the tree. Teachers are encouraged to keep the leaf stickers in a sealed container in a hidden place where children cannot access them. Below is how the leaf distribution process is implemented in each class every morning for four weeks:

Teachers are instructed to ask their students during morning role call:

**“WHO TRAVELED TO SCHOOL TODAY BY WAY OF A GREEN TRIP?”**

Children who raise their hand will receive a leaf sticker to stick on their classroom tree. It is important that teachers remind their students to stick their leaves in the appropriate quarterly section of the tree (week 1, 2, 3 or 4). Teachers should be watchful of younger students who are tempted to place multiple stickers on the tree in one day. Please emphasize; only one leaf is allowed every day.

*As the tree fills in with beautiful leaves every day, students feel a sense of pride that they are helping to keep our planet green by reducing car trips to school, and more importantly, reducing greenhouse gases.*

### Acorns track weekly progress for each class

Each classroom will be supplied with weekly green trip tally forms; the tally form is an acorn graphic. At the end of each week *please count and write down the total number of green trips for your classroom on the acorn*. This number is derived by counting all of the leaves that were placed on the tree that week. The tree poster is divided into four sections (four weeks), which makes tallying easy.

Every Friday please count your leaves and write your totals on two acorns (one is a duplicate acorn); one acorn will be taped next to your tree poster and the 2<sup>nd</sup> acorn will go to the main office with role call on Friday. The duplicate (2<sup>nd</sup>) acorn will be placed in a large envelope in the main office for your school's Safe Routes to Schools representative to collect. To summarize:

1. Each week tape one completed acorn next to the Tree poster in the classroom
2. Create a duplicate acorn each week which will be given to the main office

At the end of the challenge period, the class, grade and/or school with the greatest number of green trips to school wins the challenge and will receive special recognition by the Principal and by Safe Routes to Schools. Thank you!

