



## SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## MEDIA RELEASE / COMMUNITY ALERT

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### NATIONAL WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY IS OCTOBER 8TH

*Join our community to celebrate safe, active trips to school.*

San Mateo, CA – The San Mateo Police Department encourages families and students to buckle up their helmets and lace up their sneakers for National Walk and Roll to School Day. This annual event celebrates the benefits of exercise and brings attention to the need for safe, accessible walking and biking routes.

National Walk and Roll to School Day is a great opportunity to highlight pedestrian safety and advocate for safer routes for walking and biking to school. This day underscores the importance of boosting physical activity and prioritizes the safety of the families in our community.

While extra caution is needed on the morning of October 8, with increased foot and bike traffic, it's important to stay alert every single day. Drivers should be prepared to stop for school buses and children crossing the street and always slow down in school zones.

San Mateo PD offers tips for students who walk, bike, or roll to school:

- Plan your route on roads with sidewalks or paths away from traffic. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible or ride your bike in the same direction as traffic as far on the right-hand side as possible.
- Use crosswalks, preferably at stop signs or signals. If there are unmarked crosswalks, cross at corners on streets.
- Always look left-right-left before crossing the street. Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Watch for cars entering/leaving driveways or parking spaces. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Always wear a helmet when riding or rolling.

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*Protect with Honor / Serve with Pride*

- Be visible. Wear bright clothing during the day and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight when it's dark.
- Stay alert. Don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.

Schools are encouraged to register at [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org) as a way of tracking participation and showing support for active, healthy, and safe transportation.

SMPD's Traffic Unit will be out in force, as it's a great way for us to educate our youth on traffic safety and be a presence at our schools on this day. So, join us as we "Walk and Roll" to school on Wednesday.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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