



## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### ***School Safety Education Program***

An educational program focused on reducing child pedestrian- and bicycle-related injuries and fatalities in San José through interactive safety presentations. This program operates as a component of the City of San José Street Smarts Program, developed by the Department of Transportation.

All too often, children are subjected to speeding cars, congestion, double-parking and blocked crosswalks, creating a consistently chaotic environment around schools. The City's safety education program teaches behaviors that will help keep kids safe, beginning at an early age, in this type of environment.

Another aspect of the program is to promote bicycling and walking to school to promote good health for students, and improving the environment. Organizing group bike rides at schools, educating students on the environmental and health benefits of riding/ walking to school, and working with Safe Routes to School to ensure the safest routes around each school for students are all ways the Street Smarts program works to promote bicycling and walking for a cleaner and healthier environment.

### ***The Program***

This program focuses on educating children ages 5-15 years, on proper pedestrian and bicyclist safety measures through an interactive presentation at elementary and middle schools throughout San José. Our goal is to make children and adults aware of bad driver and pedestrian behaviors to improve safety for children. As children participate in this interactive program they will be more conscious of traffic concerns in and around school areas. Following the conclusion of each interactive presentation, children receive a safety information handout to review with parents and siblings. Through this interactive presentation, children are taught important pedestrian and bicyclist behaviors such as:

- Play it safe – Use the crosswalk.
- Stop. Look left, right, left, front and back before crossing the street.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
- If you ride a bike, WEAR A HELMET.

In addition to school presentations, this program expands by conducting bicycle rodeos, helmet giveaways, and helmet inspections at schools and community events. Bicycle rodeos allow children to participate in an interactive bicycle safety simulation course to increase and improve bicycle safety. At bike rodeos, children also have an opportunity to have their helmets inspected for proper fit and some children may qualify to receive a new helmet at no charge. Helmet giveaways will continuously be conducted at elementary and middle schools throughout San José.

Help us to make San José's children Street Smart! Our program goal is to educate all elementary and middle school children in San José over the course of two years. If you have not had a presentation at your school, we invite you to take advantage of this innovative safety program, available from the City of San José at no cost. The program offers alternative formats for delivering the interactive safety presentation and also provides opportunities for community volunteers to participate at bike roadeo events.

***How do I schedule a safety presentation or bike roadeo?***

If you would like more information about this program, or are interested in hosting an interactive safety presentation or bike roadeo for children ages 5-15 years, contact Tara Jones, School Safety Education Coordinator at (408) 975-3296 or by email at [tara.jones@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:tara.jones@sanjoseca.gov).