



CRIME PREVENTION CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS SDSD WEBSITE

Talking Patrol Car Program

This is one of the most long-running and popular programs that the Crime Prevention Unit offers for preschool-Kindergarten, and is now available in Spanish (male voice) and English with both a female and male voice. With the help of a Sheriff's deputy and a Crime Prevention Specialist, a fully-equipped patrol vehicle "describes" its functions and apparatus in the "first person." The car talks about his/her radio, the lights, the siren, the screen, and the star. Among the important safety messages are when to dial 9-1-1 and warning children not to talk with or go with any one other than their parents or someone they have been given permission to do so. The participating deputy also discusses the uniform and equipment that he wears, then answers questions from the enthusiastic audience. (Approximate time: 30 minutes (not including time it takes to situate the children))

9-1-1 Program

Usually presented to the older preschoolers through elementary school age, the **9-1-1 Program** demonstrates when and how to make an emergency call. Presenting an important message that transcends all ages, the Crime Prevention Specialist reviews different scenarios with the young audience to see if they can determine when to call 9-1-1. The Specialist also emphasizes the importance of never "practicing" or using the phone to pretend that there is an emergency. (Approx. time: 25 minutes, not including time it takes to situate the children).

People who make You Feel Uncomfortable

This program is also one of the Crime Prevention Unit's most requested presentations and centers around teaching a child to communicate or go only with those his parents have "pre-approved." Knowing that most abductions and criminal acts involving children are committed by someone with whom the child is acquainted, we emphasize that a bad person may not always be a "stranger." The Specialist discusses the "gut feeling" sign, as well as ploys that someone might enlist to entice the child from a safe place ("lost" puppy, ice cream cone, mom or dad have had an accident and this person has to take care of the child, etc.) (Approx. time: 20 min. and may be incorporated into Talking Car Program).

Bicycle Safety/Bike Rodeo

Specifically designed to teach children the rules and safety practices of the road, the **Bicycle Safety Program** offers tips for young riders and an obstacle course for them to test their skills and safety applications. **The Bike Rodeo** also provides an opportunity for the Specialist to engrave the family's bicycles with a driver license number at no charge. (Approximately 30 minutes to go through the course and have their bike engraved. However, this event is often done with other collateral activities or incorporated into community fairs).

Cyber/Internet Safety

To combat one of the fastest growing and most serious crimes, Internet Safety education is available through the Crime Prevention Unit to help protect children in elementary through middle school. In a joint effort with school administrators, parents, and children, the Crime Prevention Unit provides information to each group, tailoring the presentations to the appropriate audience. The Specialist gives information about social websites, the "dark side" of the Internet, webcams, and teaches parents basic ways to monitor their children's cyber activity. For select venues, some of the stations offer the "Missing" game, an interactive experience wherein the players must make decisions about potential situations. (Approximate time: 1 to 2 hours)

“Don’t Run Around, Stay Found!”

The renowned **Simon** (a bloodhound puppet) and companion Search and Rescue Teamleader Pam Medhurst, bring an important message about what a child should do if he or she gets lost and how to avoid getting lost in the first place. While interjecting humor, Pam and Simon carry on a dialogue about what to bring before going on a hike, only to find that Simon has not thought things through very well. Having theatrical experience, Pam brings Simon to life, encouraging interaction from the delighted audience. This is suitable for ages 4-8, although adults are pleasantly entertained also! (Approximate time: 35 minutes)

Child Lures

Again, **Simon**, the bloodhound, and Search and Rescue leader Pam Medhurst discuss a serious topic as they alert the young audience (4-9) about the dangers of becoming potential victims. Simon is asked to role play scenarios such as one involving a lost puppy, a photo session, and being enticed by candy and money. As in the previous presentation, Simon gives some wrong answers, but is quickly corrected by children in the audience when Pam asks for interaction. (Approximate time: 30 minutes)

Search and Rescue Adopt-a-Dog for Classrooms

The purpose of this program is to acquaint children with a variety of things including avoiding unsafe situations and people, volunteering in the community, talks about hiking safety, animal care and training, and first aid for humans and pets. The handler visits the class about every month with the dog and discusses the dog’s training and provides a short lesson and perhaps a hands-on project. The classroom gets a poster of “their” dog and at the end of the year, an individual photo of the student with the dog. Recommended grade levels: 3rd (maybe), 4th, 5th, and 6th) (Approximate time: varies, but probably 45 minutes to allow for hugs)

Bullying

An ever-growing problem in the schools and neighborhoods, “bullying” is discussed on three levels: with the children, with the parents, and with the school staff. Children are taught how to avoid bullies, what options they have if they are victims, and what to do if they see someone else being taunted. Parents are also taught about what signs to look for in children who may be reticent to come forward as victims. Parents are admonished not to encourage their children to “fight back” but rather reiterate the “best practices” methods that are taught in the classroom. Recommended for K-6th grades. (Approximate time: 30-40 minutes for children, one hour for adults)

Cyber-bullying

With mass communication and the ability to send messages to millions of users at the click of a button, harmful and personal information can be disseminated that can negatively affect a child’s (or adult’s) life for a long time, if not permanently. The students are taught their responsibility in their use of the Internet and what to do if they encounter pornography or inappropriate material. They learn the ramifications of engaging in cyber-bullying and how it might lead to far-reaching and unanticipated consequences.

Operation Lifesaver

This is a train safety program taught by Crime Prevention Specialists who are certified in the Operation Lifesaver Program. Through video and colorful posters, children learn about the speed of trains, the dangers of walking too close to or crossing the tracks, the meanings of railroad crossing signs and trespassing issues. This is especially applicable to those areas in which the Coaster and the Sprinter operate in north county and along the coast. For ages 4-12 (Approx. time: 35-45 min.)