Wisconsin Safety Patrol, Inc. guidelines for selecting Washington, D.C. honorees*

There are many ways of setting up a system for evaluating the performance of your school safety patrols while on and off duty. Some schools elect captains and/or lieutenants to maintain a record book that logs items as outlined in the guidelines listed below. Other schools prefer a system whereby the adult supervisor maintains a record book. Still other schools prefer a system that combines these two methods.

In any case, the criteria for determining the quality of a patrol’s performance while on or off duty should remain the same. The “School Safety Patrol’s Member Handbook,” and the “Captain’s Record Book,” both available from AAA Wisconsin, provide further detail for qualifying a school safety patrol’s performance. The following items highlight some of the most critical factors you’ll need to consider when selecting your honoree.

- Does the patrol provide excellence in leadership and maturity while on and off patrol?
- Does the patrol act as an ambassador/representative of their school while on and off duty?
- Does the patrol consistently follow the guidelines on their membership card; being safe, showing a good example for safe crossing, role modeling good behavior for others, being on time to their post, wearing a belt, receiving both trust and respect from other students and adults as a safety patrol?
- Does the patrol demonstrate above average academic achievement along with excellent effort in class work?
- Does the patrol accept responsibility for their actions while on and off duty in regards to school policies, homework completion, classroom behavior, respecting other students and all adults?

The Washington, D.C. trip has wonderful benefits, but is strenuous, and tiring for students of all ages. We’d also like to recommend that students who are selected exhibit high levels of independence. Can they handle being away from home for 5 nights? Can they handle the stressors of the trip, such as long bus rides, little comfortable sleep, and traveling with unknown companions and adults?

The following guidelines are provided to assist you in setting up a selection procedure if you do not already have one in your program:

1. Points as outlined above must be carefully reviewed as candidates are considered.
2. Patrol members should be involved in the nomination process by either nominating themselves** or by being nominated by a peer or adult in the school. **(This could be done by requiring an essay, or speech given by the student)
3. Students should be chosen on the basis of principles that distinguish excellent safety patrol performance from standard patrol performance. Wisconsin Safety Patrols, Inc. suggests peer balloting be only one factor in the decision, if used at all. A random lottery process is not suggested.
4. The nomination slate should be made available for staff consideration, as well as adult crossing guard consideration, and possibly police officers with a connection to the school (i.e. Classes On Personal Safety instructors, etc.).
5. The final decision in choosing the delegate should be made by the school principal along with the school patrol supervisor and the student’s classroom teacher.
6. (This step should be completed before students know they are possible candidates!) Parents should be called as to their student’s ability to handle the above-mentioned stressors of the trip, including health issues that could be related to the experience.

* As of December, 2006 Board of Directors, WSPI