

TRAILBLAZERS

Coordinator Role & Responsibilities



Task Calendar

SEPT RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

Training Date: Confirm a date and time with STSWR for Trailblazers training at your school.

Student Recruitment: Aim to recruit 20-30 students in grades 5-8. (*Tip: Use the student recruitment poster, mention the opportunity on the announcements, and have the principal/teachers personally invite ideal students to join.*)

Permission: Ensure students get caregiver permission forms signed before training.

Training Session: Attend the training with the students.

Post-training: Distribute vests and confirm the routes that will be covered on the Trailblazers map. (*Tip: Hang the map in a place where Trailblazers can refer to it.*)

SEPT-JUN SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT

Behaviour & Other Issues: Field concerns from the Trailblazer students as they arise throughout the year and address any irresponsible Trailblazer behaviour.

OPTIONAL: Coordinate 4-6 meetings with Trailblazers to touch base and/or to work on an optional student-led active school travel project (more info in FAQs).

JUN CELEBRATION

Gifts: Distribute thank you gifts (supplied by STSWR) to active Trailblazers at end of year.

OPTIONAL: Host a celebration gathering to distribute the gifts.



FAQs

- **Who is best suited to be a Trailblazer?** A student who frequently walks to school and is known to be responsible. Ideally in grades 5-8, but in a K-6 school, grade 4 students may be considered if staff believe the student to be mature.
 - **Is there a minimum number of students required?** While we recommend that you aim to recruit 20-30 Trailblazers, we are happy to come to your school and train any number and help you grow your program.
 - **How long is the training?** One hour; and students receive take-home reference cards to reinforce what they've learned.
 - **What does the training cover?** It covers pedestrian skills, hazard awareness, anti-bullying, and problem-solving. It includes an oath that outline what Trailblazers are (and are not) responsible for.
 - **What are preferred routes?** STSWR identifies Trailblazer "preferred" routes based on where students live and existing walk-friendly infrastructure, e.g., sidewalks or winter-maintained paths, crossing guards, pedestrian crossings, and controlled intersections (with traffic lights, stop signs, or yield signs).
 - **How should I handle irresponsible behaviour by a Trailblazer?** When a Trailblazer is not behaving responsibly, we recommend that you do the following to ensure that other students' walking experiences are not negatively affected:
 1. First incident—issue a warning and review relevant training information;
 2. Second incident—phone the caregiver and remind the student about the training information again; then
 3. Third incident—Remove the student from the program and collect their Trailblazer vest.
 - **What do you mean by optional student-led project?** Student-led projects can vary, depending on the specific challenges faced at your school, the ideas that the students are most excited about, and the availability of school/STSWR staff to support the Trailblazers with their ideas. STSWR will help you with this. Some examples include:
 - Designing and running a **walk & wheel campaign** to encourage students to choose active transportation for their school journey more often
 - Creating **educational posters or videos**
 - Developing and delivering an **educational show** of some kind for an assembly, e.g., a dress for the weather fashion show, a pedestrian safety dos and don'ts show
 - A project where students **document challenges on the school journey** from a child's perspective with photos or videos, and perhaps presenting their findings to officials at the city
 - A **speed measurement project** where students use speed guns to track speeds in the school zone
- Or you can engage Trailblazers in other, simpler ways, e.g., have them do safety announcements, and help with any walking and cycling events (including Winter Walk Day, Walk for the Earth, and Bike to School Week).

THANK YOU!

We appreciate your participation in this important program. It will support the leadership skills of your Trailblazers and improve health and safety for your students.

Questions or Comments?

Contact Leslie Maxwell, STP Supervisor, 519-650-4934 x224, leslie_maxwell@stswr.ca