

Block Parent School Presentations

Most Calgary communities have a Block Parent Community Coordinator who is responsible for arranging school programs. Presentations are made each year to Kindergarten students and every two years to Div I and II students.

REASONS FOR POLICE OFFICER ATTENDING SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

- Block Parent functions only with the co-operation and support of the Calgary Police Service.
- Police and Block Parent volunteers work as partners to make communities safer for children.
- Children should know exactly what a Police Officer's uniform looks like, compared to mail carriers, security guards, fire fighters, etc.

TIME COMMITMENT FOR A POLICE OFFICER PARTICIPATING IN A SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Police Officers are requested to limit their discussion to 5 to 10 minutes and will be asked to give their presentation immediately following the introduction, so that we can limit the amount of time required. Police Officers are, however, welcome to stay for the entire program and to participate in the question period at the end of the presentation.

INFORMATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

We suggest you cover the following information:

- Describe uniform and how it differs from a mail carriers, security guards, fire fighters, etc.
- Explain the identity badge and describe a police car.
- Show the children how to wave if in trouble (hands crossed and uncrossed above the head) to distinguish from a "hello" wave.
- Remind children to be aware of strangers. You may mention specific incidents which have occurred in their area recently so that children can be forewarned, but not frightened.
- Explain that police officers are not always around so look for the Block Parent sign in the window of a house or a Block Parent decal in the door or window of a business.
- Explain to children that if they are being followed by a strange vehicle, to turn and run in the opposite direction to escape from danger. Remind them to always tell an adult.
- Suggest alternative places of refuge or assistance – Block Parent Business, fire hall, library, police stations – any other location that has a telephone and more than one adult.
- Grade 5 & 6 only – Encourage these young adults – to act responsibly, report suspicious activities, assist younger children in distress.