AAA School Safety Patrol® Program

School Safety Patrol Movement	In 1920, AAA clubs helped organize a program whereby older students assist younger ones with crossing streets on their way to and from school. The safety patrol concept spread quickly through communities and schools nationwide. AAA clubs supply training materials, belts, badges and other items needed to operate a School Safety Patrol Program. AAA promotes and recognizes patrol efforts each year through a series of awards, newsletters, summer camps and scholarships.
Membership	AAA School Safety Patrol® members are select elementary-and middle-school students who volunteer to guide and protect their classmates against traffic hazards. Millions of people have served as safety patrol members in the United States and in 30 other nations.
Symbol	The symbol of the AAA School Safety Patrol® Program is the 'lectric lime belt (previously orange) and shoulder strap worn by patrol members in most communities. A metal badge bearing the AAA emblem is attached. The belt is easily seen and conveys the need for caution to motorists and pedestrians.
Results	The national pedestrian death rate per 100,000 children aged 5 to 14 has dropped from 10.4 in 1935 (the first year records were kept) to 3 in 1986. By 2014, the death rate for pedestrians in the 5 to 14 age group was .32 per 100,000. Children in this age group used to have the second highest fatality rate of any age group; today they have the lowest. Experts credit AAA's program with making a strong contribution to this significant improvement.
Patrols	For some, being a member of the AAA School Safety Patrol® is just the first rung on the ladder of leadership and public service. Former patrol members include: U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton; U.S. Senator from Virginia John Warner; former Governor of Michigan William Milliken; Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and former AAA President James B. Creal. In addition, 21 astronauts were once patrol members
AAA Lifesaving Medal Award	The Lifesaving Medal Award is the highest honor given to members of the school safety patrol. The award is presented annually to patrol members who, while on duty, saved the life of someone in imminent danger.
Founding	The award was initiated in 1949 by AAA to recognize and honor school safety patrol members for heroic lifesaving actions in their communities.
Recipients	There have been 411 boys and girls honored with the AAA Lifesaving Medal. Many recipients have put their own lives in danger to save others. Their split-second decisions demonstrate the highest degree of moral and physical courage.

Guidelines

The Lifesaving Medal is awarded by an independent review board to a member of any authorized School Safety Patrol when there is conclusive proof that:
The life of the person saved was in imminent danger;
The act was performed while the patrol member was on duty, going to or from a duty post, or while on duty as a bus patrol member;
No negligence on the part of the patrol member caused or contributed to the person rescued being in danger.

Presentation

The AAA Lifesaving Medal has been presented by U.S. Presidents Ford, Johnson, Kennedy and Eisenhower; Vice Presidents Mondale, Humphrey, Nixon and Barkley; First Lady Mamie Eisenhower; justices of the U.S. Supreme Court; cabinet officials; and other dignitaries.

Celebrity Patrol Members

For some, being a member of the AAA School Safety Patrol® is just the first step toward a career of public service and leadership. Former patrol members include:

U.S. Presidents
- Jimmy Carter
- Bill Clinton

Governors and Former Governors
- Bob Martinez, Florida
- James Blanchard, Michigan
- William Milliken, Michigan
- Lincoln Almond, Rhode Island

U.S. Senator
- John W. Warner, Virginia

U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Former Justices
- Chief Justice Warren E. Burger
- Anthony M. Kennedy
- Stephen G. Breyer
- Clarence Thomas
- William J. Brennan, Jr.

21 Astronauts, including:
- Norman E. Thagard, space endurance record holder
- Robert D. Cabana
- Mary Ellen Weber

Olympic Gold Medalists
- Caitlyn Jenner, decathlon
- Lynette Woodard, basketball
- Mike Ramsey, hockey
- Eric Heiden, speed skating
- Edwin Moses, track and field

Nobel Prize Winner
- Dr. Gary S. Becker, Economics