



Rockland Safe Streets

RocklandSafeStreets.org

Fall 2023 Newsletter

School's back in session and soon it will be Halloween! It's the time of year when children and their parents are walking and biking to school to visit friends or run afternoon errands. As the leaves start to fall and the days get shorter, you know that Trick or Treat season is right around the corner.

Here are a few tips – without tricks – for parents and kids to follow while getting around on two feet or two wheels this autumn.

Be Safe! Be Seen! Establish eye contact to make sure drivers know you are there.

- Look left, right, and left again before crossing the street. Use crosswalks if they are available. If there isn't a crosswalk, **remember that pedestrians need to yield the right of way to cars!**
- **Sidewalks are safe spaces:** If there's a sidewalk, NY State law requires pedestrians to use it! Sidewalks are spaces where walkers rule: drivers must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk when entering or exiting from an alleyway, building, private road or driveway. When sidewalks are not provided, pedestrians should walk on the left side of the street facing traffic.



- Wear light-colored clothing and add reflective material to increase visibility – especially when walking at night. Consider wearing reflective clothing and lights when Trick or Treating after sunset. Halloween walking and bicycling routes should use streets that are well lit as well as neighborhoods that offer the best treats, too!
- **There's safety in numbers!** While trick or treating or walking to school, school age children should be encouraged to walk or ride with friends.
- Walk smart by putting your smart phone away: When crossing busy streets, look left, right and all around – except at your cell phone. Remove ear buds and pause your conversation when you are crossing busy intersections.
- If bicycling to school is an option, consider starting a **Bike Bus**. It's good exercise, green transportation, and provides "safety in numbers" because a big group of kids and adults riding together will be more visible than individual riders.
- Wearing a helmet while bicycling isn't just a good idea – it's the law for all ages in Rockland County, NY.



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You can learn more about walking, bicycling and New York State Vehicle and Traffic Laws at RocklandSafeStreets.org.

Does it really matter if you look left a second time when you cross the street?



Why do you need to look **Left**, then **Right**...and **LEFT** when crossing the street? Check out this video from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration which asks and answers the question: "Does it really matter if you look left a second time?"

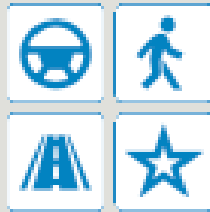
The helpful tips at RocklandSafeStreets.org are brought to you by the Rockland County Department of Health through a grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee with funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.





Governor's Traffic
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