

Recycling Troopers Program

Recycling Troopers is a white paper recycling program open to all elementary schools. This is student led program that teaches students responsibility for their school, the environment and leadership skills. This program is easy and fun for the whole school. The students take pride in their accomplishments, and it unites the school on a single project. This program can be open to newspaper recycling and can work with schools that have existing recycling programs.

Student participation:

A group of students from each grade (number can be determined by the individual schools) are identified as Recycling Troopers. These students are responsible for collecting the paper from classrooms and taking the paper to a collection bin outside the school building on school grounds. They will also grade the participating classrooms on how well they recycle.

School participation:

The school supports the program. The school encourages teachers to participate and gives students time out of class each week to collect the recyclables. The school will decide on which students will be the Recycling Troopers.

The school will also have to arrange for the paper to be picked up. This can be coordinated with the county recycling/solid waste office that could pick up the paper and take to a MURF or coordinated with a private company that will collect the paper and pay for the paper based on weight.

How it works:

- ❑ Recycling Troopers will receive a with a “Recycling Trooper” badge.
- ❑ Teachers who participate will use their existing recycling bin or receive a blue bin if the school does not already recycle.
- ❑ Teachers and students put white paper in the bin during the week. On Friday, the bins are put outside the classroom.
- ❑ Every Friday, Recycling Troopers will have a moving cart with bins that will be rolled from classroom to classroom to collect recyclables. Paper from the classroom bins will be taken out and placed in the mobile bins. Troopers will sort through the bins as they empty them to make sure there is no non-recyclable material included. Troopers will grade the classroom for their participation.
 - Gold star for a perfect bin.
 - Silver star for a bin that might have a few items that are non-recyclable.
 - Black star for a classroom that did not recycle that week.
- ❑ The mobile bins will be taken to the outside collection bin when full. This process will continue until all classroom recycling has been collected and placed in outside bin. Once all the classroom bins have been emptied, the Troopers will return the mobile bin cart to its proper location.

Benefits to the school:

- ❑ Students learn responsibility and leadership skills.
- ❑ The school saves money on overall trash pickup because there is less paper waste going into garbage and ultimately the landfill.
- ❑ The school can possibly earn money from the paper recycled by working with a private company.