

Walk 'N' Roll to School Week means cleaner air for students

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Walk 'N' Roll to School Week means cleaner air for students

PIMA COUNTY, Aug. 27, 2025 -- The [Pima County Department of Environmental Quality](#) (PDEQ) Clean Air Program invites schools to participate this fall in [Walk 'N' Roll to School Week](#), October 27-31, to encourage students to walk, bike, scooter, skateboard, or rollerblade to school.

These active ways to get to school improve student health and reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles near schools. Walk 'N' Roll to School Week is also a fun way to promote physical fitness, build community, and inspire families to use their feet more often for their school commute.

"Walk'N'Roll to School Week is a great way to encourage students to try out an active mode of transportation for their school commute," said PDEQ Climate and Community Engagement Manager, Natalie Shepp. "Our hope is that this week-long event will encourage the use of these alternate modes throughout the entire school year."

To participate, school leaders should read details and complete the [registration form](#) on the [Walk 'N' Roll to School webpage](#). After registration is complete, promotional materials will be provided, including a banner, stickers, mood pencils, participation tickets for the raffle, and one Razor scooter as the raffle prize.

This year, participating schools will also have a chance to win a free "Riders and Walkers" presentation to 15 third-grade classes that includes an interactive game based on Chutes and Ladders, where two teams learn about how to safely walk or ride to school.

Schools also have an option to host the event during a different week in October if that is preferred. The PDEQ [Clean Air Program](#) and the [Pima County Health Department](#) support this fun week for area schools. Parents are encouraged to talk to their schools about getting involved.

Several other programs are also designed to reduce air pollution at schools and educate students and families about air quality:

- The Idle-Free Schools Program establishes Idle-Free pick-up zones to reduce student exposure to toxic air pollution emitted by idling vehicles. School leaders can register their school on the [Idle-Free Schools webpage](#).

- The [Air Quality Flag Program](#), offered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), helps protect the health of our community with resources to inform residents about current air quality conditions and improve air quality.
- PDEQ offers free presentations to all grades to support science or health lessons, including air quality, climate change, pollution prevention, or going green. PDEQ staff is also available to table at school events. To schedule, email HealthyAir@pima.gov.

The Pima County Department of Environmental Quality monitors air and water quality and hazardous and solid waste programs that minimize waste and prevent pollution. PDEQ also provides public outreach, education, and citizens' assistance; processes environmental permits; and responds to public complaints and inquiries with investigations and enforcement.

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