

ENERGY QUEST

Saving energy saves money and the environment

Start an Energy Patrol!

What does the Energy Patrol do?

The Energy Patrol makes sure that lights and other things that use power, like computers, are turned off in your school or youth center when no one is using them. Lights are a good target for the Energy Patrol because in most schools or youth centers, up to half of all the energy used in the building is for lighting.

Why start an Energy Patrol?

The patrol gives students an opportunity to practice leadership skills by getting involved and taking responsibility for their school. The patrol also reduces the school's energy costs so that more money can be used for school programs. DeVargas School in Cupertino, California started the first Energy Patrol. The school was able to save about 33 percent (one-third) of its energy costs—about \$1,000 each month—through its patrol.

The less energy we use to heat, cool, and light our schools and youth centers, the less pollution is put into the air and water by the power plants that make energy for us. So saving energy saves money and the environment.

How do we get started?

Ask a teacher or staff person at your school to help you start the Energy Patrol. The advisor can ask the school, the local power company, or a local business to pay for jackets, t-shirts, or hats that the Energy Patrol will wear. Special jackets with the school name and an Energy Patrol symbol will make the patrol stand out and give members the respect they deserve. Patrol members can make their own symbol. The symbols can also be placed on the light switch stickers you will need (see the next page). The cost of these items is small when you think about the money the patrol can help the school save.

What do we need?

Once you find an advisor, decide where and when you can meet. You will need to make some rules and give each member a job to do. You will also need to make

- ✓ a list of rooms where students are allowed to check,
- ✓ check sheets for each room listing what to check (lights, computers, or anything else you plug in, like TVs, and also check thermostats),
- ✓ a schedule for room checks,
- ✓ agreements for members to sign to serve on the patrol,
- ✓ light switch stickers that say, "Please turn off the lights!" (DeVargas School put a lion on the stickers because the lion is the school mascot.), and
- ✓ a safety check list for patrol members.

We have everything ready, so now what do we do?

- Do a "walk-through" with your advisor to practice.
- Practice safety when walking around the school.
- Have a good place to store your checklists and other supplies.
- Ask the principal to make an announcement about the patrol.
- Write down what you do so you know the best ways to save energy and how much the school saved.
- Make awards for the rooms that do the most to save energy.
- Tell Professor Quester that you have started an Energy Patrol, and she will send you some special gifts for your patrol members. Email her at PQuester@energy.state.ca.us.



Professor Quester says—

If you need help with starting the Energy Patrol, you can always go to the California Energy Commission's **ENERGY QUEST** Web site at www.energyquest.ca.gov for help.

If you don't find what you're looking for, email [Professor Quester](mailto:PQuester@energy.state.ca.us) at PQuester@energy.state.ca.us, and she will help you.