



Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky, left, and Sheriff's Capt. Marc Klugman try out basketballs and soccer balls that Sheriff's deputies use to reward kids for safe, courteous behavior.

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## Deputies Reward Safety, Good Behavior With Basketballs, Soccer Balls for Kids

(Feb. 11) Sheriff's deputies patrolling the Metro Blue Line and Metro Green Line have a reward out for kids who observe rail safety procedures or behave courteously on the trains. The reward: a basketball or soccer ball.

Started in late December, "Score a Goal for the Kids" gives the deputies "a chance to do something positive for youths at risk," says Sheriff's Sgt. John Harris. "The program helps establish a bond between the patrol deputies and the youth in the communities we serve."

### 300 youths rewarded

The Transit Services Bureau received 1,000 of the 6,400 basketballs and 25,500 soccer balls given to the Sheriff's Department by Toyota for a youth program. To date, deputies patrolling the two light-rail lines have rewarded some 300 kids.

Deputies who want to reward youngsters for safety or good behavior hand them a card they and their parents or guardian can redeem at the Imperial/Willowbrook Sheriff's station. The card notes that the youth earned the reward for observing rail crossing signals, courtesy, platform safety or other reasons.

"By having the kid and his parents or guardian come to the Sheriff's station to collect the ball, we can convey a positive message," Harris said. "And it gives the parents an opportunity to reinforce that message at home."

[Back to MTA Report](#)