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Girl Scout Troop 420 traveled on Metro Rail with Deputies Scott Schneider and Kevlin Wong.



PHOTOS: RICH MORALLO

Metro Volunteers Blanket Patriot Weekend Community Events

By RICH MORALLO

(Sept. 14, 2004) On a weekend dedicated to Patriot's Day and honoring the heroes of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Metro volunteers spread throughout the South Bay, serving the community by passing out transit and safety guidelines at public events.

In the shadow of a huge tree in San Pedro's Point Fermin Park, Jovino "Benny" Lorenzo talked to families about transit services. He staffed a Metro information table during the FilAm Arts and Cultural Festival, which drew 30,000 attendees.

"This is a good chance to get involved, meet people and see what they think about our bus and rail system," said Lorenzo.

While Lorenzo, Dixie Dorsett, Kathleen Martin and Alice Brass handled the crowds in San Pedro, Bob Leabow stepped inside a huge tent in Watts and joined other agency representatives participating in the Unite Watts Day Celebration.



A member of the California Conservation Corps took home a bagful of information from the Metro booth at Point Fermin Park in San Pedro.

Ran out of supplies

Leabow, a rail safety volunteer, ran out of supplies within a couple of hours. "The youngsters grabbed up the bus safety checklists, pencils, and safety coloring books."

Just as Leabow was handing out his last pair of crayons, four miles to the west Sheriff's Deputies Scott Schneider and Kevlin Wong were saying "Hello" to the 25 girls in Girl Scout Troop 420 at the Metro Green Line's Crenshaw/105 Station .

The group boarded the eastbound train and met Division Ambassador Council (DAC) member Louvenia Harris at the Rosa Parks Station.

Harris spent the rest of the day with the scouts, showing them how to be safe on both Metro Bus and Rail. Afterwards, she even rode two-seat bicycles with her guests in Long Beach.

'Had lots of fun'

"My legs and thighs hurt, but we all had lots of fun," the bus operator added.

Meanwhile Nicole Hall, another DAC member, spent her Saturday afternoon at the Macedonia Baptist Church "Back to School Campaign" where she also talked to neighborhood youngsters about bus and street safety.

At yet another community function, South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey and long-time service attendant Arthur Winston represented the agency at the Alpine Village Oktoberfest.

"There was good food, singing and dancing there," said the 98-year-old Winston, who was recently recognized for his inspirational leadership by the state legislature in Sacramento.