



Taking Neighborhood Watch to the Next Level



BJA **Bureau of Justice Assistance**
Office of Justice Programs ■ U.S. Department of Justice



History

Neighborhood Watch was started over thirty years ago as a way for citizens to help law enforcement protect neighborhoods

In 2002 there was a challenge to all law enforcement agencies and citizens to unite and form new Watch groups in their communities, and to revitalize inactive groups





Neighborhood Watch's Expanded Role



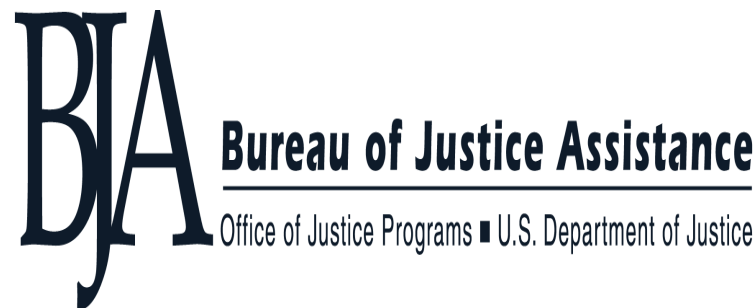


Partners

National Sheriffs' Association

Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice

Citizen Corps





Program Goal

To empower communities by providing Neighborhood Watch groups and their leaders with effective training and tools





What is Neighborhood Watch?

- People working together
 - Crime prevention
- Local homeland security
 - Opportunity
 - Empowerment





Neighborhood Watch Basics

Steps to Starting a Neighborhood Watch

1. Recruit and Organize
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency.
3. Schedule a meeting to discuss community concerns and develop an action plan.
4. Hold regular meetings and Train on neighborhood watch principles
5. Create a phone tree and email network

Community Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

- Aids in crime reduction and improved quality of life
- Provides greater sense of security, responsibility and personal control
- Builds community pride and unity
- Prepares us all for helping others





Law Enforcement Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

- Year-round support of volunteers
- Reduces burdens
- Creates well-trained, better-informed and better-prepared citizens





Who is Involved in Neighborhood Watch?

National Sheriffs' Association
Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs,
U.S. Department of Justice
Local Law Enforcement Agencies
Law Enforcement Liaison
Block Captains
Members
Partners





Roles and Responsibilities: U.S. Department of Justice and National Sheriffs' Association

- Produce and distribute products and materials
- Create and enhance Neighborhood Watch programs
- Reduce crime and terrorism by mobilizing America
- Provide financial support



Roles and Responsibilities: Local Law Enforcement Agencies

- Develop Neighborhood Watch groups in their communities
- Assist established groups
- Build and maintain partnerships
- Promote safety and security
- Prevent and reduce crime and terrorism
- Improve quality of life





Roles and Responsibilities: Local Law Enforcement Liaison

- Serves as liaison between law enforcement and program members
- Guides
- Trains
- Communicates





Roles and Responsibilities: Neighborhood Watch Members

- Be an active member
- Create excitement
- Recruit new members
- Stay informed and inform others
- Report to law enforcement
- Keep records and statistics





Roles and Responsibilities: Partners

- Provide information
- Provide resources
- Provide support
- Broaden the scope
- Coordinate responses





Neighborhood Watch National Awards

- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Community Members
- Programs and Corporations





How to Get Involved

“What can I do?”

“How can I help?”

**Join your local
Neighborhood Watch group, and
Register on USAonwatch.org**



Neighborhood Watch Toolkit



Game Plans
Trainings
Presentations
Tools and
Templates





Neighborhood Watch Basics

- History
- Who is involved
- What Neighborhood Watch does
- How Neighborhood Watch has expanded
- Benefits
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Programs and Services



Tracking Your Progress



Self-Paced Training

- Series of three CDs
- Seven skill building trainings:
 - Four leadership and management
 - Three Neighborhood Watch-specific
- One to four hours in length
- Participant books for each training
- Tools and templates for each training





Volunteer Management

Participants will learn the basics of volunteer management and leadership, including recruitment, interviews and placement, motivation, team building, and evaluation and retention.





Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning focuses on the key elements of developing a strategic plan for both the leader and his or her Neighborhood Watch group.





Partnerships

Participants will learn skills that they can utilize to reach out to other civic, social and service organizations in an effort to expand their partnership activities.





citizen *corps* Partner Programs

- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)
www.policevolunteers.org



- Fire Corps

www.firecorps.org



- Medical Reserve Corps
www.medicalreservecorps.gov



- Community Emergency Response Training
www.citizencorps.gov/cert





Observation Skills

Covers various aspects of observation such as what to observe, how to observe it, and observation specifics concerning both individuals and the surroundings





Reporting Suspicious Activities

Presents information on how to properly report, as well as what to report, and when.

Participants will be able to specifically advise citizens on the appropriate *who, what, why* and *how* of reporting.



Target Hardening for the Home

Participants learn a specific methodology on how to evaluate homes for security, and general information on how to work with the public to make our neighborhoods more safe and secure.



Purpose of Community Presentations

*To provide information that will
increase the knowledge of
Neighborhood Watch members.*



Community Presentation CD Topics

- Creating Awareness
- Teamwork
- Strategic Planning
- Partnerships
- Planning and Conducting Effective Meetings
- Observation Skills
- Reporting Suspicious Activities
- Target Hardening for The Home



The Total Package

There are numerous resources in the Toolkit:

- 6 CDs
- Posters
- Flipbooks
- Reporting Pinwheel
- Observation Tips Placard
- Lighting audit tool
- Important Community Number
- Brochures/booklets
- Other Handouts/tools





In the Future

Additional resources can be provided on a variety of crime prevention and public safety topics





For more information:

National Sheriffs' Association



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