

Tomball Police Department Volunteers in Police Services 2006

Effective crime prevention requires the active support of citizens – a partnership of the police department and the community. Private and public agencies have realized for decades the value of volunteers in enhancing their workforce. The volunteers play a vital role in the department's vision to engage the community in a problem solving partnership to reduce crime and positively affect the quality of life in the community.

In an effort to enhance police services, the Tomball Police Department implemented the Volunteers in Police Services program. The program has been designed to combine the professionalism and experience of department personnel with the creativity and enthusiasm of community volunteers, by offering volunteer opportunities within the department to citizens. The Tomball Police Department has made volunteers an integral component of the support services program.

Background:

The Tomball Police Department began the VIP's program in June 2004. The established program was initiated by using the 2004 graduating class of the Tomball Citizens Police Academy. The number of volunteers continues to grow as members of the Citizens Police Academy complete their training and cultivate their demonstrated interest in the agency into a volunteer relationship.

The Volunteers in Police Services bridge the gap between the citizens and officers, acting as aids to police officers and as goodwill ambassadors of the Tomball Police Department. This direct augmentation of staffing allows the officers more time to establish problem solving partnerships with the community.

Purpose:

Volunteers function as an auxiliary unit of the police department. They serve as eyes, ears, and helping hands. Volunteers do not carry weapons, but they do have cellular phones and radios, which allow for direct communication with our dispatchers and police officers. This enables the volunteers to report any suspicious activity quickly so that an officer can investigate what might have otherwise gone unnoticed or unreported.

To reduce the risk of conflict, members of the Volunteers in Police Services program do not conduct any form of enforcement duty; they report the violation to the dispatcher who will enter the violation as a call for police service which will be handled by the police department.

Volunteers:

In 2006, Tomball Police Department employed 29 active volunteers. A Volunteer In Police Services class was recently held for the graduate class of the 2006 Citizens Police Academy, in which 7 graduates successfully completed their training, bringing the active volunteer total to 36 volunteers. Based on the history of the program, statistics show that through attrition, the program seems to lose approximately (3) members per year. These members resign from the program for reasons including distant moves, and personal commitments.

Since the inception of the program, the police department has benefited from the vast knowledge, experience, and willingness to serve from the citizens. The volunteers feel that this is an excellent opportunity to learn about law enforcement and to see its implementation in our community first hand, along with the opportunity to give back to

and improve your community, to develop job skill and experience, and actively help your police department “fight crime”.

Duties:

Over the past year, the task and duties of the volunteers have broadened to meet the needs of the police department and the community. The duties of the volunteers vary according to their level of clearance and job task training. The volunteers have the opportunity to perform a multitude of functions for the agency such as:

- Knightwatch
- Handicap Parking Enforcement
- Technical Support
- Special Projects / Events Assistant
- Warrant Detail / Administrative Assistant
- Assistance in Disaster
- Records Assistant
- CALEA
- Investigations / Detective Assistant
- Motor Pool Service

Each of the above mentioned job functions are divided into subcategories based on the specific task. The volunteers express their areas of interest and receive training in that specific job task.

Hours:

As a comparison, the total VIP hours for the year 2004 was 460.50; however, the program was implemented in July 2004 so the hours were given over a period of (6) months. In 2005 the overall total hours volunteered was 2048. In 2004, a total of 12 volunteers worked, bringing the average hours donated per volunteer to 38.38 hours. In 2005, a total of 21 volunteers committed time to this organization, averaging 97.52 hours per volunteer. In 2006 the volunteers donated 2851, utilizing 29 volunteers. The 2006 hours were distributed as follows:

Tomball Police Department Volunteer Activity Totals 2006

Activity Category	Hours	Volunteers	Average
· Photographer / Videographer	56.00	2	28.00
· Special Projects / Events Assistant	770.50	22	35.02
· Warrant Detail Administrative Assistant	139.00	4	34.75
· Motor Service Equipment Manager	45.00	4	11.25
Assistance in Disaster (A.I.D.)	3.50	1	3.50
Investigations / Detective Assistant	295.25	5	59.05
Knight Watch	906.75	18	50.38
Record Assistant	200.50	6	33.42
Speed Watch	95.00	2	47.50
TPOA Assistance	22.50	3	7.50
Training	41.00	11	3.73
Volunteer Coordinator Assistant	63.50	2	31.75
CALEA	155	2	77.5
Handicap Parking Enforcement	51	4	12.75
Tech Support	7	4	1.75
Total	<u>2851.50</u>		

Logged Hours by Activity Category



of Volunteers by Activity Category



Value of a Volunteer:

There is no real way to place a value on a volunteer. Looking back at the essential roles

Activity	Hours	Volunteers	Average
CALEA	155	2	77.5
Handicap Parking Enforcement	51	4	12.75
Technical Support	7	4	1.75
Total	213		
- Photographer / Videographer			
Photographer	56	2	28
Total	56		
- Special Projects / Events Assistant			
4th of July / Firework Display	51.5	8	6.44
Awards Dinner	45.5	6	7.58
Blue Santa Program	195	6	32.5
Community Relations	51	4	12.75
German Fest	39.5	4	9.88
Holiday Parade	22.5	4	5.63
Shattered Lives	172.5	8	21.56
Shop with a Cop	14.5	4	3.63
TCPAAA Meeting	125	20	6.25
Tomball Night	53.5	8	6.69
Total	770.5		
- Warrant Detail Administrative Assistant			
Administrative Duties	89	3	29.67
Warrant Assistant	50	1	50
Total	139		
-Motor Service Equipment Manager			
Fleet Maintenance	45	4	11.25
Total	45		
Assistance in Disaster (A.I.D.)			
First Responder Assistance	3.5	1	3.5
Total	3.5		
Investigations / Detective Assistant			
Case Cold Calling	16	1	16
Property Room Inventory	279.25	4	69.81
Total	295.25		
Knight Watch			
Knightwatch	906.75	18	50.38
Total	906.75		
Record Assistant			
Pawn Detail	33	3	11
Records Clerk Assistant	167.5	4	41.88
Total	200.5		
Speed Watch			
Speed Monitor	95	2	47.5
Total	95		
TPOA Assistance			
Golf Tournament	22.5	3	7.5
Total	22.5		
Training			
Job Task Training	41	11	3.73
Total	41		
Volunteer Coordinator Assistant			
Coordinator assistant	63.5	2	31.75
Total	63.5		
Total	2851.5		

that the volunteers took on in the past, they played a valuable part as members of this organization. They were looked upon not only as members of an auxiliary, but as members of a team. To place a dollar value on the time that was given to Tomball Police Department by the Volunteers in Policing Services, the Bureau of Labor Statistics set the

value of a volunteer hour in 2006 at \$18.59 per hour. Using this rate to calculate the value of time given by the Tomball Police Department Volunteers in Policing Services for 2006, the value of the volunteers totaled \$53,000.09. Being that there are 2080 hours in a full-time work year, the volunteers were equivalent to one full-time employee, to include the cost of benefits, training, etc.

Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour in Other Years: 1981 - 2006		
1981: \$8.12	1991: \$11.76	2001: \$16.27
1982: \$8.60	1992: \$12.05	2002: \$16.74
1983: \$8.98	1993: \$12.35	2003: \$17.19
1984: \$9.32	1994: \$12.68	2004: \$17.55
1985: \$9.60	1995: \$13.05	2005: \$18.04
1986: \$9.81	1996: \$13.47	2006: \$18.59
1987: \$10.06	1997: \$13.99	
1988: \$10.39	1998: \$14.56	
1989: \$10.82	1999: \$15.09	
1990: \$11.41	2000: \$15.68	

Please note: Values for 1990-2002 were adjusted to reflect a new data series released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A Look into the Future:

Looking back at 2005, the Volunteers in Policing Services proved to be a successful program. With a set goal of accumulating 1000 hours, the 2005 volunteers not only achieved this goal, but more than doubled it. In 2006, due to the expansion of the volunteer program, a goal of 2000 hours was set by the volunteers. Once again, the volunteers exceeded their goals by producing 2851 hours. Remembering that we can not rest on the laurels of yesterday, we need to look ahead in 2007. In 2007 we are expected to have approximately 38 active volunteers with a reachable goal of 3000 volunteer hours.

The Volunteers in Policing Services program has been assigned a V.I.P. vehicle that will be detailed and represent the program. Due to the fact that Knightwatch has been such a success and volunteers have been accountable for approximately 12 arrests, it has been requested that a second volunteer vehicle be added to the patrol fleet to increase the volunteer participation.

The duties and functions of all volunteers are greatly appreciated. Whether a volunteer gives 40 hours or 400 hours, any time is valuable to this organization. Without the volunteers, the Tomball Police Department would not be successful in many of the areas that they are today.