



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?



A Neighborhood Watch is an organized effort by concerned citizens to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood in cooperation with the police department,

Neighbors work to safeguard each other's homes to reduce the risk of crime in their community.

WHAT ARE THE COORDINATOR'S DUTIES?

Every Neighborhood Watch has a point of contact that is the liaison between the community and the police department.

Duties include:

- * Disseminate information with the watch members
- * Maintain email distribution list or other way to communicate with members.
- * Recruit new members and encourage the reporting of crime and suspicious activity.



GET STARTED

1. Determine your target area.

We recommend your street with a few other intersecting streets. We suggest at least 12 homes, but if you have more than 35 you will need another dedicated neighbor to co-coordinate the watch with you. Traditionally smaller watches have proven to be more effective.

2. Determine the interest.

Introduce yourself to your neighbors and explain why you're interested in starting a watch. Determine the level The more neighbors interested and participating in program the more successful it is.

3. Attend a training date.

Training dates are offered monthly by the Prince William County Police Department. Encourage everyone to attend! Dates are available every month if there is a scheduling conflict.

MAINTAINING THE WATCH

Get as many neighbors involved in the program as possible! Not everyone will want to participate, that's ok!

Make sure everyone knows about the program and that they are always welcome to attend the meetings or events.





TIPS FOR INCREASING PARTICIPATION

- Stop thinking of neighborhood watch only in terms of a “crime program” - neighborhood watch can be a tool for improving the quality of life on your street.
- Consider the size of your watch - It is easier to organize and motivate small groups rather than large ones.
- Identify a need in the neighborhood and organize a response to it - bring people together for a common good. Plant flowers in the common area or do a yard cleanup for a neighbor in need.
- Do something fun! - It doesn't have to be expensive or elaborate but can help get the ball rolling, even if it only draws in a few neighbors.
- Do something easy - if you have a list of problems in the neighborhood start with the one you can resolve quickly.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much time is this going to take?

The process is simple and only requires a significant time investment during the start-up phase. After that, maintenance of the watch is fairly minimal.

Do I have to patrol?

Neighborhood Watch Patrol is not a requirement but it is encouraged. Patrolling the neighborhood ensures neighbors are being “watchful” for suspicious activity. It provides a visible deterrent to criminals, keeps people involved in the program and helps the police by using their familiarity with the area to identify suspicious activity. At a minimum, during your daily activities (driving through the community on your way home from work, walking, etc) stay alert to suspicious activity and report it to the police department.

What can our community do about solicitors?

Click [here](#)

People speed in the neighborhood, what can be done?

Click [here](#)

How do we request additional traffic enforcement or patrols?

Click [here](#)

How do we report parking complaints?

Click [here](#)

NOTE: If your complaint involves a vehicle obstructing traffic or posing a safety risk to pedestrians or bicyclists, or involves vehicles parked in a manner obstructing a fire hydrant, fire lane, or marked handicapped space, please call the non-emergency line at 703-792-6500 so a patrol officer can respond. These complaints require immediate attention.



CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

703-792-7270

crimeprevention@pwcgov.org