



INTERESTED IN STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD

WATCH GROUP?

What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a community crime prevention program administered by the Temecula Citizen Corps in coordination with the Riverside Sheriff's Department and the city of Temecula. Its purpose is to reduce crime and create an alert neighborhood by teaching simple crime prevention steps and providing general and specific information on crime and safety in each neighborhood.

Since 1972, the National Neighborhood Watch Program (housed within the National Sheriffs' Association) has worked to unite law enforcement agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens in a nation-wide effort to reduce crime and improve local communities. The success of the program has established Neighborhood Watch as the nation's premier crime prevention and community mobilization program. Visible signs of the program are seen throughout America on street signs, window decals, community block parties and service projects. The National Neighborhood Watch program empowers citizens to become active in community efforts through participation in Neighborhood Watch groups.

With most crimes there are unsuspecting witnesses because they are not familiar with the people and places around them. Neighborhood Watch will enable you to become familiar with your community. Simple things like knowing who works days and which cars belong where and by recognizing people who belong in the area and those who do not. This program will teach you to be aware of who is on vacation, visitors, scheduled deliveries or repairs and much more helpful information.

Basic knowledge and a few precautions will help prevent many crimes that occur in our city. More criminal incidents would be resolved and more stolen property recovered if people took the time to properly secure their homes and apartments. Residents need to report suspicious persons, record serial numbers of valuable property (Operation Identification) and jot down license plates of vehicles cruising suspiciously around the neighborhood. As a participant in the Neighborhood Watch Program you will find yourself getting to know your neighbors better. This program is designed to provide a way for neighbors to help neighbors and keep an eye on one another's property and possessions. Neighborhood Watch can be a source of combating all aspects of crime.

The initial requirement to form a Neighborhood Watch is that someone in your area of homes or apartment complex hosts a meeting with the Riverside's Temecula Crime Prevention Unit and the Temecula Citizen Corps. This service is free of charge.

Riverside Sheriff's Temecula Crime Prevention Office: 951-506-5132, Email: smlopez@riversidesheriff.org
Riverside Sheriff Volunteer TLO: Bruce Brunn, 757-739-3924 (cell); bbrunn@riversidesheriff.org

Those who wish to become more involved in the program can increase their activity in the following ways:

- Volunteer to coordinate your area or complex's initial meeting
- Volunteer for the position of your local Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
- Volunteer to participate in other areas of the Temecula Citizen Corps to help protect your neighborhood from all disasters

If you are ready to get started contact the Riverside Sheriff's Temecula Crime Prevention Office: 951-506-5132, Email: smlopez@riversidesheriff.org, or the TCC Neighborhood Watch Coordinator: Riverside Sheriff Volunteer TLO: Bruce Brunn, 757-739-3924 (cell); bbrunn@riversidesheriff.org

What to expect after you make the important decision to get involved with Neighborhood Watch:

- The TCC Neighborhood Watch Coordinator will advise you if an active neighborhood watch program is in effect in your area. If there is already an established program you will be provided the name and phone number of the section or area coordinators for your neighborhood.
- If no program is in place you will be asked to organize and host the initial meeting in your home or at a public facility.
- An initial meeting date will be set with you, a representative from the Riverside Sheriff's Department, and the Temecula Citizen Corps NW Coordinator. You will receive additional information on the Neighborhood Watch program by email.
- Once the date is confirmed you will need to contact your neighbors; invite as many as possible and explain the value of neighborhood watch. Be sure to mention that the program does not require frequent meetings and it does not ask that anyone take any personal risks to prevent crimes. Neighborhood Watch leaves the responsibility of apprehending criminals where it belongs – with the Sheriff's Department.
- You may want to ask your neighbors to join you and bring a light snack to share.
- At the meeting a Neighborhood Watch coordinator will outline the relationship between TCC and the neighborhood watch program. The crime prevention officer will provide tips on securing your home and the many resources available in the city. If applicable, a code enforcement officer may attend to cover various city ordinances relating to private parking, weed abatement and signs.
- This is an informative meeting that typically starts at 7:00 pm and lasts approximately 60-90 minutes.

Our nation is built on the strength of our citizens. Every day, we encounter situations calling upon us to be the eyes and ears of law enforcement. Not only does neighborhood watch allow citizens to help in the fight against crime, it is also an opportunity for communities to bond through service against all threats to our safety. If you are ready to start a Neighborhood Watch program in our community or just have questions, contact the Temecula Crime Prevention Office today at (951) 506-5132.

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