

What is Neighborhood Watch and How to Participate

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with local law enforcement to reduce crime in their neighborhoods.

It involves...

- Neighbors getting to know each other, taking the time to care about each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance;
- Residents being trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhood; and
- Crime prevention strategies, such as home security and suspicious activity identification and more.



Why Participate In A Neighborhood Watch Program?

There cannot be a law enforcement officer on every corner. Resident involvement is essential to combat crime.

- You and your neighbors are the ones who really know what is going on in your neighborhood.
- By cooperating with each other and with local law enforcement, people can help fight crime in their community the most effective way—by stopping it before it begins.
- Neighbors place signs in their windows and post signs on streets to warn criminals that they are in an active crime prevention neighborhood and that “neighbors are watching out for each other.”

What Makes A Neighborhood Watch Program Work?



The key to Neighborhood Watch is community residents banding together to work with local law enforcement. These partnerships create a powerful force to carry out a successful Neighborhood Watch program. Neighborhood Watch works because citizens work as a group to:

- Take charge and decide what action is needed;
- Form liaisons with local law enforcement;
- Convince government to listen and respond to the community's needs;
- Target specific problem areas,
- Develop realistic goals,
- Monitor their progress; and
- Celebrate their success.



Starting A Neighborhood Watch Program...

Contact your LAPD Senior Lead Officer

- Westchester East of Sepulveda – SLO John (Chris) Richardson 310-622-3976 email 35362@lapd.lacity.org
- Westchester West of Sepulveda and Playa del Rey – SLO Ruben Garcia 310-622-3978 email 33236@lapd.lacity.org
- Playa Vista – SLO Gregg Jacobus 310-622-3971 email 35362@lapd.lacity.org

Get help from your Senior Lead Officer to organize and attend your initial meeting.

Organizing your Neighborhood Watch

- Ask about crime conditions in your neighborhood.
- Talk to your neighbors.
- Canvass your neighborhood for interest.
- Discuss any crime problems in your area.
- Arrange a date, time and place for the first meeting.
- Select a time that is convenient for most neighbors.
- Meet in the home of a neighbor or a local community center to foster an informal, comfortable atmosphere.
- Publicize your meeting at least one week in advance with door-to-door fliers and follow-up with phone calls the day before.
- Select a block captain.
- Be a spokesperson for the group.
- Serve as the liaison between law enforcement and your Neighborhood Watch group to organize and arrange Neighborhood Watch meetings.
- Recruit neighbors to share the responsibility of hosting meetings.
- Maintain a list of all members.
- Have a Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- Encourage each member to participate.
- Keep the process moving.
- Develop an action plan and activities.
- Ask someone to record the group's discussion.
- Gather and share information about your neighborhood.

More information can be found at www.usaonwatch.org and www.lapdonline.org

How to call the LAPD

Call 911 when there is a life or death emergency that requires the immediate response of emergency service such as police, fire or paramedic. Always call 911 when there is a medical problem or something that requires the Los Angeles Fire Department to respond, because they do not have non-emergency lines.

Call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) when there is a situation that requires police response but is not an emergency.

Anonymous tips can be shared with the LAPD at www.tipsoft.com (Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers)

Current Crime information

For crime information go to www.crimemapping.com. You can sign up to receive daily notifications.