

Neighborhood Watch Programs

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Neighborhood Watch Programs

Neighborhood watch programs count on the citizens to organize themselves and work with the law enforcement to keep a trained eye and ear on their communities.

These programs are needed to bring citizens and law enforcement together to prevent crime and make communities safer.

How is this related to building strong youth and strong communities?

Strong Youth –

Keeping crime out of the communities keeps the neighborhood children away from crime. Parents allow kids to be outdoors knowing their neighborhoods are safe.

Strong Communities –

It will force neighbors to interact with one another as well as law enforcement. It will also help to keep the communities clean and safe. Tight knit communities will come together and protect the neighborhood as a whole.

Neighborhood Watch History

- Neighborhood watch programs can be traced back to colonial settlements and were developed in the 1960's.
- It was started at this time as a response to the rape and murder of Kitty Genovese in Queens, New York when people became outraged when at least 3 dozen witnesses did nothing to prevent the crime.

Neighborhood Watch History

- The National Neighborhood Watch Program was created in 1972, with financial assistance from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.
- In 1981, 12% of the nation's population was involved in these programs.
- It is also one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in the country.

Neighborhood Watch Facts

- Watch groups can be formed out of any geographical unit: a block, park, apartment, business area, or public housing complex as well as many others.
- Neighborhood watch is also known as crime watch or neighborhood crime watch.

Neighborhood Watch Facts

- Members learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicion to the police or sheriff's office.
- Neighborhood watch programs are not just an American concept; they are being used in other countries around the world as well.

Neighborhood Watch Facts

- Organization outside the U.S.
 - Neighbourhood Watch (UK)
 - Block Parent Program (Canada)
 - Committees for the Defense of Revolution (Cuba)

Neighborhood Watch Survey

From our survey it seems that most communities don't have neighborhood watch programs and if they do most are not aware of it.

We distributed this survey to many different neighborhoods ranging from urban, rural, and suburban areas.

Neighborhood Watch Survey

The survey definitely suggested that people with young children feel that some kind of program which would keep their children safe is something they would want and support.

Urban areas were more likely to have neighborhood watch programs rather than suburban or rural areas.

Why should people be involved in Neighborhood Watch Programs?

Description of a Neighborhood Watch Program – these programs are developed in order to keep communities safe from crimes such as acts of violence, drug abuse, burglaries and vandalism. For example, if such communities are surrounded by schools or parks, recreation and leisure activities will be less susceptible to all of the above.

with neighborhood watch programs...

- community members will have a closer relationship with one another which will help to ensure the positive identity of the community.
- the community as a whole will be a safer environment for the adults as well as the children. For example, the learning environment will be higher due to the positive atmosphere.

with neighborhood watch programs...

- Law enforcement would provide crime information and instruct these groups in various crime prevention techniques.
- It will help build pride and serve as a springboard for efforts that address community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.

with neighborhood watch programs...

- The neighborhood will become a tight knit community, it would be a family filled environment that will stand out to all. The responsibility would fall on the entire community to handle the outlook of the neighborhood.
- A family could relax and spend leisure time doing what they want without having to worry about the safety of their loved ones.

with neighborhood watch programs...

- A neighborhood with a school or park would be in a positive atmosphere and it would keep the school clean from markings and vandalism. This will also make a great learning outlook for tomorrows future.

Community Partners

A few concerned residents, a community organization, or a law enforcement agency can spearhead the effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch Program.

Any community resident can join – young or old, single or married, renter or homeowner.

Community Partners

The “Block Captain”, is a member of the community who chooses to be the ring leader or liaison for the watch program participants.

Mainly, their job is to pass along the crime information and prevention tips to the community members and to also keep an open line of communication with law enforcement.

Community Partners

Almost every city or county throughout our nation has some sort of organization or agency one could contact in order to start a neighborhood watch program.

Some even have a neighborhood coordinator who could be a contact to start these programs.

A Neighborhood Coordinator

The neighborhood coordinators main responsibilities is to keep clear communication lines between the neighborhood groups as well as city hall. They also help resolve neighborhood problems and determine future goals and priorities.

Other Neighborhood Watch Programs...

Nearly every city throughout our nation has some type of neighborhood watch program. There are thousands of websites online giving information regarding how to start a neighborhood watch program in your area.

On these sites one would find tips on how to start, and answer any questions one might have. Signs could also be purchased to post up around the neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Watch Websites

Some of these websites include:

- www.usaonwatch.com
- www.nnwi.org
- www.ncpc.org



Other Neighborhood Watch Programs....

Not all programs go by the same name however, they all have the same goal in mind.

One of the best ways to start a neighborhood watch program is to contact the local police department. Another way would be to start a petition within the community.

Financial Assessments

To start up a neighborhood watch program it would need support from the community as well as financial support. These programs are the least costly to prevent crime and reduce fear.

Participants could go to local community businesses looking for donations. There could also be a fee for those who live or are moving into the neighborhood.

Financial Assessments

Local businesses will want to help donate to these neighborhood watch programs simply because it is a tax write-off but more importantly it will improve the quality of their business location and make it a safer place for employees as well as customers especially during later hours of the day.

Financial Assessments

These fees brought in from the neighbors could be spent on whatever the community feels is necessary to protect their neighborhood:

- Security to patrol the area at night
- Traditional block parties will give an opportunity for the communities to relax and interact with a positive atmosphere and outlook on how to improve their community.

Neighborhood Watch Programs make the world a better place...

We suggest that every community or neighborhood should start a watch program if one has not already been implemented.

Having this program in a community will make it a safer, cleaner and more respectable environment for all those who journey into that area.