



CITY OF TEMECULA ♦ POLICE DEPARTMENT

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. The program enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with the City of Temecula and the Police Department. 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 in each neighborhood.

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 criminals would be apprehended 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.

Neighborhood Watch membership initial requirement is that your tract of homes or apartment complex hosts a meeting with the Temecula Police Department Crime Prevention Unit, City Code Enforcement and the Temecula Citizen Corps.

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

- Volunteer to participate in other areas of the Temecula Citizen Corps
- Volunteer to coordinate your tract or complex's initial meeting
- Volunteer for the position of Tract Coordinator
- Volunteer to be a Block Coordinator

If you are ready to get started contact the Temecula Citizen Corps at citizen.corps@cityoftemecula.org or call 951-302-4548 and you will be put in contact with the area director.

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

- The area director will advise you if an active neighborhood watch program is in effect in your area. If there is an established program you will be provided the name and phone number of the section or tract 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, the section coordinator and a representative from the Police Department, Code Enforcement and the Temecula Citizen Corps.
- 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 Police Department.
- It is a good idea to offer refreshments at the meeting. Ask your neighbors to join you and bring a light snack to share.
- At the meeting the Temecula Citizen Corps program administrator will outline the formation of the TCC and its relationship with neighborhood watch. The crime prevention officer will provide tips on securing your home and the many resources available in the city. The code enforcement officer will 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 1-2 hours. Meetings are scheduled Tuesday through Thursday only.

If you are ready to start a Neighborhood Watch program in our community or just have questions, contact the Temecula Citizen Corps at citizen.corps@cityoftemecula.org or call 951-302-4548.