



Starting a Neighborhood Watch Program Checklist

You Will Need

- A person or group of people committed to starting a Neighborhood Watch
- A planning committee to initiate the program
- A list of what issues initially need to be addressed in your community
- A copy of the free DVD on Neighborhood Watch (to order, click on *Free Neighborhood Watch DVD*)
- A means of communicating with the residents, e-mail, fliers, telephone trees
- Publicity for the initial Neighborhood Watch meeting (if applicable)
- A meeting agenda to keep things moving and on track.
- A place to meet -resident's house or apartment, community center, school, library, local firehouse
- A COPE officer from your local precinct to attend one of your meetings (contact your precinct COPE office for availability) who can discuss the crime issues in the neighborhood and how to effectively and lawfully deal with them
- Handout materials on topics of concern/interest to residents
- A list of emergency phone numbers including local precinct COPE contact information (click on *Important Phone Numbers*)
- A map of the community with spaces for names, addresses, and phone numbers of all households
- A sign-up sheet for those interested in becoming block or building captains (include name, address, phone and email number(s))
- Neighborhood Watch signs to be posted around the community (contact your local precinct COPE office for information on how to obtain signage)

To Add Excitement

- Mix business with pleasure - allow attendees time to socialize.
- Seek out neighborhood go-getters (civic leaders and elected officials) to be your advocates and mentors.
- Work with such existing organizations as citizens' association, tenants' association, or housing authorities.
- Provide speakers on topics of community interest.
- Link crime prevention into activities promoted by other groups: child protection, anti-vandalism projects, community service, arson prevention and recreation activities for young people.
- Start a neighborhood newsletter.

To Build Partnerships

- The endorsement of law enforcement agencies is critical to a Watch group's credibility. These agencies are the major sources of information on local crime patterns, crime prevention education and crime reporting.
- Local businesses and organizations can help provide fliers and a newsletter, offer meeting places, and distribute crime prevention information.
- Libraries can provide research materials, videos, computers, and meeting space.



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- Teenagers are valuable resources. They can be an integral part of a citizens' patrol, including biking and rollerblading to scout the neighborhood.
- Places of worship can provide meeting space and a good source of volunteers.