

***Profiles of Volunteer
Programs***

Part II: Profiles of Volunteer Programs

This section contains information about specific components of 18 separate law enforcement volunteer programs. In most cases, the agencies appearing in this guide offer multi-faceted programs. The highlighted programmatic information is only one component of their larger volunteer programs. For additional information, contact the person listed. You can find other examples of how volunteers are being utilized and read hundreds of other program descriptions on the VIPS Program Web site at www.policevolunteers.org.

Former IACP/ SAIC Outstanding Achievement in Law Enforcement Volunteer Program Award Winners

Benicia Police Department – Benicia, CA
Delray Beach Police Department – Delray Beach, FL
Richardson Police Department – Richardson, TX
Denver Police Department – Denver, CO
Eugene Police Department – Eugene, OR
Pasadena Police Department – Pasadena, CA

Other Featured Programs

California

Long Beach Police Department
Anaheim Police Department
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Florida

Clearwater Police Department
Palm Beach Police Department

Missouri

Independence Police Department

Montana

Billings Police Department

New York

Rochester Police Department

Ohio

Westerville Police Department

Pennsylvania

York Police Department
Abington Township Police Department

Virginia

Leesburg Police Department

Former IACP/ SAIC Outstanding Achievement in Law Enforcement Volunteer Program Award Winners

Benicia Police Department

Population Served: 28,000

Sworn Employees: 36

Volunteers: 40

Contact Person: Officer Patti Baron, Volunteer Coordinator
(707) 746-4268
pbaron@ci.benicia.ca.us
www.ci.benicia.ca.us/police

The Benicia Police Department volunteer program has been in existence for 13 years and includes patrol division, records, evidence, investigations, crime prevention, parking adjunction, chaplaincy, and the family resource center. They serve the Patrol Division by providing two-person patrol units to assist with issuing parking tickets; conducting vacation home checks; controlling traffic at accident scenes; transporting court documents and evidence; setting up barricades for special events, hazardous spills, and fires; assisting with DUI checkpoints; purging unneeded evidence and property from storage; and watching for crimes and suspicious activities. In addition, volunteers assist detectives in the Investigations Division by providing follow-up services on cold cases, participating in the juvenile diversion program, and conducting crime analysis surveys.

Delray Beach Police Department

Population Served: 65,000

Sworn Employees: 150

Volunteers: 360

Contact Person: Officer Andrew Arena
(561) 243-7873
arenaA@ci.delray-beach.fl.us
www.mydelraybeach.com/Delray/Departments/Police

The leadership of the volunteer program is composed of volunteers and mirrors that of the Delray Beach Police Department command structure. The program is divided into two volunteer groups, each headed by a volunteer major. Delray Beach Police Department volunteers are assigned to one of two volunteer groups within the department: the Operations Group or the Support Group. Under these groups, volunteers serve in such units as the Citizens on Roving Patrols, the Volunteer Parking Enforcement Division, and the Volunteer Marine Patrol. In addition, they staff the Downtown Roving Patrol, the Mobile Traffic Monitoring Division, the Homefront Security Patrol, the Haitian-American Roving Patrol, the Volunteer Administration Division, the Volunteer Support Services division, and the Volunteer Training Division.

Richardson Police Department

Population Served: 99,800
Sworn Employees: 146
Volunteers: 426
Contact Person: Sue Stevens, Volunteer Coordinator
(972) 744-4842
sue.stevens@cor.gov

Volunteers in the Richardson Police Department are engaged in a variety of creative and innovative endeavors that support more than 100 activities in all aspects of police operations and administration. The program provides services in five major categories: Communications, Support Services, Investigations, Special Operations, and Patrol Operations. In these categories, volunteers provide services that support a myriad of projects and activities, including racial profiling statistical compilation, red light camera projects, planning and fiscal support, bicycle theft investigation and recovery program, crime scene searches, citizen fingerprinting services, Help End Auto Theft Registration, pawnshop recovery detail, translation services, accident investigation support, maintaining security for crime scene integrity, traffic surveys, commercial motor vehicle inspections, equipment and Quartermaster duties, crime prevention support, and Field Operations support. In addition, under the volunteer umbrella, the department also has a Police Chaplain Corps, an Explorer post, numerous neighborhood crime watch patrols, and a reserve officer program.

Denver Police Department

Population Served: 546,000
Sworn Employees: 1589
Volunteers: 250 department-wide
Contact Person: Mike Rappe, Volunteers in Policing Unit Coordinator
(720) 913-6878
Mike.Rappe@denvergov.org
www.denvergov.org/policevolunteers

The Denver Volunteer Crime Scene Investigation Team (Volunteer CSI) is an all-volunteer group that has been trained to investigate car thefts and other property crimes that may not otherwise have been visited by officers. Volunteers are trained on how to appropriately collect fingerprints, take pictures, and gather other critical forensic evidence. Members of the Denver Volunteer CSI Team receive on-the-job instruction by Crime Scene Investigators on their respective duties. Participants must first pass a background investigation and a suitability interview and must volunteer for one year in an administrative volunteer unit prior to be interviewed for placement in the Volunteer Crime Scene Investigation Team. During their review process for the team they are also required to pass a polygraph test and receive final approval from the Director of the Crime Lab prior to admittance to the team.

Eugene Police Department

Population Served: 145,000
Sworn Employees: 182
Volunteers: 1; 86 department-wide
Contact Person: Carrie Chouinard, Program Manager
(541) 682-5355
carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us
www.eugene-or.gov/policevolunteers

The Volunteers in Policing Program was formalized in 1999 when a full-time volunteer coordinator was hired. By involving volunteers, EPD is able to provide additional services – services the public wants, but the department is unable to provide or unable to make a priority due to budget and staffing limitations. Examples include graffiti abatement, home vacation checks, enforcement of disabled parking violations and documenting serialized and valuable property for community members. Volunteers assist with administering the Crime Stoppers Program, purging property for the Property Control Unit, photographing events, and developing databases. Examples of volunteer efforts include transcribing tip line calls, retrieving videos of suspects from businesses for detectives, washing police cars, inventorying and stocking vehicle trunks and shuttling cars to mechanics, preparing certified copies of audio tape records for the 911 Center, and entering details concerning allegations of child abuse and neglect into a spreadsheet for the Violent Crimes Unit.

Pasadena Police Department

Population Served: 146,000
Sworn Employees: 262
Volunteers: 106
Contact Person: Officer Kimberly Smith, Volunteer Coordinator
(626) 744-7652
ksmith@cityofpasadena.net
www.cityofpasadena.net

The Pasadena Police Department volunteer services program has been in existence for more than 20 years. In 2006, the Pasadena Police Department received an award for their ID Theft Program from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The innovative Community Response to Eradicate and Deter Identity Theft (C.R.E.D.I.T.) program is comprised of three volunteers assisting the Financial Crime Unit of the department. The volunteers actively assist with the Citizens Assisting Pasadena Police Program, Youth Accountability Board, Parade Watch, Safe Shopping Detail, Volunteer Translation Team, Chaplains Group, and Equestrian Unit. Volunteers assist with traffic control and parking at local events, participate in National Night Out, the Kids and Teen police academies, and the Citizens Police Academy, which all volunteers are required to complete prior to joining the department. At this time, the department is looking into a pawn shop recovery detail program where the bulk of the work performed would be by volunteers.

Other Featured Programs

California

Law Enforcement Exploring – Search and Rescue Program Long Beach Police Department

Population Served: 480,000
Sworn Employees: 1,000
Volunteers: 50
Contact Person: Officer Eric Matusak
(562) 570-7285
eric.matusak@longbeach.gov
www.joinlbsr.com

Founded in 1962, the Long Beach explorer post 279 is modeled after the post at Costa Mesa, and assisted by the Long Beach Fire Department. As one of the oldest explorer programs in the Long Beach area, post 279 began as just a law enforcement post and expanded into the Search and Rescue program. To date they have a total of 80 volunteers, of which approximately 50 are young energetic explorers. Some of the search and rescue activities include traffic and crowd control, fire suppression, search patterns, helicopter operations, and emergency air lift. The explorers are also certified in fire suppression, CPR and First Aid, and emergency rescue and transfer.

RSVP Program Anaheim Police Department

Population Served: 350,000
Sworn Employees: 400
Volunteers: 78
Contact Person: Officer Veronica Emami, Volunteer Coordinator
(714) 765-1918
rsvp@anaheim.net
VEmami@anaheim.net
www.anaheim.net

The RSVP program has been active for a number of years in the Anaheim Police Department. Volunteers primarily patrol and provide extra eyes and ears for the department. The RSVP volunteers assist with vacation home checks, citizens on patrol, park patrol, and problem neighborhoods. They also assist with graffiti abatement and flashlight walks. The department focuses on using their volunteers for crime prevention. The volunteers also assist with directing traffic during major accidents, and providing support at local events. The RSVP program is modeled after the San Diego Police Department's program.

***Teen CERT Academy
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department***

Population Served: 10 million
Sworn Employees: 14,500
Volunteers: 350
Contact Person: Deputy Wilson Lee
(323) 526-5015
wtlee@lasd.org
www.lasd.org

Started in 2003, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department launched its first-ever Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program. Los Angeles is also the birthplace of the original CERT Program. The program is offered as a component of the explorer academy and open only to those affiliated with the Young Marines Program, Fire and Police Explorers, junior ROTC, and young cadets. The academy is offered to youth ages 14 to 21.

The training the young people receive is the same as the adults, with the addition of learning CPR and First Aid. The eight module course includes light Search and Rescue, Medical Operations (parts 1 and 2), CERT organization, Disaster Psychology, Fire Safety, Terrorism Awareness, and the Final Exercise. Teen CERT volunteers assist with traffic control, incident command during emergencies or active response situations, and sand bagging during hurricane warnings, and work side by side with sworn personnel.

**Florida
*Park Patrol
Clearwater Police Department***

Population Served: 110,000
Sworn Employees: 142
Volunteers: 80
Contact Person: Carol Schmidt, Volunteer Coordinator
(727) 562-4143
carol.schmidt@myclearwater.com
www.clearwaterpolice.org/volunteer/

The numerous activities that Clearwater Police Department (CPD) volunteers participate in include assisting with traffic accidents, conducting homeland security checks, patrolling the city's trail and parks, and assisting in the detective bureau with records, property, and pawn tickets. CPD maintains a roster of volunteer chaplains that help deliver death notices and provide assistance to CPD employees and volunteers. Volunteers are engaged in multiple activities, including the quick response team, which responds to major incidents such as plane crashes, homicides, missing person searches, and traffic deaths. These volunteers are on call 24 hours a day to provide perimeter support and assist first responders.

***Teen Police Academy
Palm Beach Police Department***

Population Served: 10,500 full-time; 40,000 seasonal
Sworn Employees: 80
Volunteers: 200
Contact Person: Janet Kinsella
(561) 838-5467
jkinsella@plambeachpolice.com
www.palmbeachpolice.com

In 2000, the department decided to take a unique approach to youth volunteerism in law enforcement and initiated its first Teen Police Academy, which is modeled after the Citizen Police Academy. The Teen Police Academy is offered in two separate sessions over the summer, catering to 15 young people per session. The five-day curriculum includes hands-on activities such as SWAT exercises, water rescue, and bicycle safety. The youth then return to the department to volunteer or join the Explorer Post.

***Missouri
Volunteer Program
Independence Police Department***

Population Served: 113,000
Sworn Employees: 205
Volunteers: 60
Contact Person: Officer Rob Romey
(816) 325-7643
rrome@indepmo.org
www.ci.independence.mo.us/police/

Independence, MO, a bedroom community of Kansas City, Missouri, is geographically diverse with one end of the city being rural and the other end densely populated. The volunteer program is managed by an officer with the assistance of volunteers. Volunteers are organized into different categories of activities and each activity has a section leader. Volunteer activities include patrol, child identification, child seat installation, DWI checkpoints, and administration. Volunteers also perform vehicle dealership inspections. This assignment was turned over from state police to local agencies, and Independence has turned it over to volunteers. Volunteers look for things such as a permanent building and ample parking for both vehicles being sold and customer vehicles. Once they complete their check list it is turned in and the dealership receives its city occupancy license.

Montana

Crime Prevention Leadership Team

Billings Police Department

Population Served: 100,000
Sworn Employees: 127
Volunteers: 5; 86 department-wide
Contact Person: Penni Reed, Volunteer Coordinator
(406) 247-8590
reedp@ci.billings.mt.us
www.ci.billings.mt.us

The Billings Police Department's Crime Prevention Leadership Team consists of five volunteers who work under the direction of the department's crime prevention officer and the volunteer coordinator. The team meets weekly to discuss and coordinate issues regarding the Neighborhood Watch Program, the McGruff House Program, Child Identification, Operation Identification, ID Theft prevention, bicycle registration, and other crime prevention efforts within the city. The team reviews applications from potential program participants, makes educational presentations to members of the community, schedules and plans crime prevention events, and provides follow-up and support to the city's crime prevention programs.

New York

AmeriCorps

Rochester Police Department

Population Served: 215,000
Sworn Employees: 676
Volunteers: 4,500 department-wide
Contact Person: Anne M. Powless
(585) 428-7496
powlessa@cityofrochester.gov
www.cityofrochester.gov/police/

The Rochester AmeriCorps mission is to "mobilize AmeriCorps members, neighbors, and residents to improve the reality and perception of public safety in Rochester's highest need neighborhoods, with an emphasis on community-based initiatives involving children and youth." AmeriCorps guidelines may vary from state to state, but members must typically complete 1,700 hours of service in a year's time (September to August). They must attend a two-week training session before beginning their volunteer service.

The Rochester Police Department has used AmeriCorps members since 1996. In the program's inaugural year, the City of Rochester financed and committed 25 AmeriCorps slots specifically for the police department. At first the positions were mainly clerical but quickly led to positions in community- and youth-based activities.

Ohio

Citizens Police Academy

Westerville Police Department

Population Served: 34,000
Sworn Employees: 74
Volunteers: 105
Contact Person: Officer Randall Bailey & Carrie Ryan, Crime Prevention Specialist
(614) 901-6472
Randall.Bailey@westerville.org
www.westerville.org
www.wpdalumni.org

The Citizen Police Academy of Westerville was established in 1999 to develop a cadre of dedicated and willing volunteers whose efforts would give department employees more time to address critical issues. The academy is overseen by the Westerville Police Department crime prevention officer and a civilian crime prevention specialist responsible for the volunteer program. Upon graduating from the citizen police academy, individuals can join the alumni association to take assignments that free officers to conduct official police work. Volunteers enter data, staff events, and call on warrants. Volunteers work as child car seat technicians, enter police reports, assist with in-service training for officers and the Delaware Tactical Unit, staff the police resource library, support the department's Terrorism Awareness and Prevention program, and help maintain the department's Web site among other activities.

Pennsylvania

Chaplain Corps

York Police Department

Population Served: 32,000
Sworn Employees: 106
Volunteers: 15
Contact Person: Pastor Daniel White
(717) 843-7284
pastordanw@verizon.net
www.yorkcity.org/section.php?name=Police

In August 1983, after nearly a year of research and planning, the first chaplain corps was formed. Chaplains are sworn in by the mayor as community servants. Each Chaplain takes two to four duty days a month. Between duties the Chaplains meet to debrief and support one another. Chaplains use a donated van to take them wherever they are dispatched. Chaplains perform various duties within the community including serving death notices, mediating in the community, ministering to officers and their families, and offering counseling in suicide prevention and domestic issues. Chaplains have also been credited for defusing tense situations involving ethnic communities and the police. The Chaplain Corps serves as an intermediary between the civilian community and police.

***Youth Aid Panel and Police Athletic League
Abington Township Police Department***

Population Served: 57,000
Sworn Employees: 91
Volunteers: 301
Contact Person: David Rondinilli, Community Service Supervisor
(267) 536-1074
drondinelli@abington.org
www.abingtonpd.org

The Abington Police Department has implemented a Youth Aid Panel for first-time juvenile offenders convicted of minor crimes. There are a total of five panels with five volunteers each. The panel listens to case details with the presence of the parents and a juvenile officer, and the youth on the panel play a role in the outcome. This gives the adolescent a chance for community service, or a letter of restitution and assistance with paying any restoration fines.

The Abington Police Athletic Leagues (PAL) Program has been in existence for almost nine years. The activities and opportunities with the PAL program include an assortment of games, ranging from hockey to bowling, to basketball and golf. The department also has a 24-hour relay program consisting of 80 ten-person athletic events teams. In just one relay event alone, the volunteers contributed 1,528 hours. All funds raised were then gifted to the township through mini grants. Other activities in which the volunteers and youth provide logistical support include the annual Rock-A-Thon to raise money for child abuse prevention, Child ID program, D.A.R.E. Camp, and car shows.

Virginia
***Junior Police Camp
Leesburg Police Department***

Population Served: 36,269
Sworn Employees: 76
Volunteers: 30
Contact Person: Officer John Pearson and Master Police Officer C.F. Tidmore, Crime Prevention Specialist
(703) 771-4564
ctidmore@leesburgva.gov
www.leesburgva.gov/services/police

The junior police camp is run by the department's school resource officers and is for young people who have completed 5th grade but not yet entered 9th grade. The goal of the camp is to introduce these adolescents to law enforcement. The campers are broken into groups and attention is paid to building teamwork and avoiding cliques. Campers are required to be able to run for 20 minutes and do push-ups and sit-ups, as physical training is an integral part of the camp. Awards are given to campers based on their performance. The camp also provides a crash demo day where campers see a mock crash, police and fire department response, and a medi-vac demo by Aircare. The campers participate in a timed obstacle course using the physical training they have learned from the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program. The G.R.E.A.T. Program is a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curriculum.