

Neighborhood Crime Watch



National Neighborhood Watch is a program sponsored by the National Sheriff's Association and supported by local law enforcement agencies to reduce crime and to make America's neighborhoods safer.

The purpose of Neighborhood Watch is to make you aware of the steps you can take to make your home more secure against crime, to show how you and your neighbors can help each other protect your entire neighborhood, and to make local law enforcement agencies more effective in the fight against crime through your involvement and participation.

A Neighborhood Watch project is the logical first step for any community organizing against crime; it requires minimal effort and gets people talking to and caring about one another. It can be the catalyst for efforts such as Operation Identification, safe homes, Citizen Patrols, emergency preparedness, and similar programs.

For more information describing ways to make your own home safer and steps to take to involve you and your neighbors in a Neighborhood Watch, call the Coshocton County Sheriff's Office at (740) 622-2411 or visit the USA On Watch website at www.usaonwatch.org

How Does The Program Work?

A neighborhood watch is a Crime Prevention Program where neighbors "LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!" It is a Crime Prevention Program that encourages Neighbor-participants to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activities can be observed, recognized for what it is, and report it so it can be investigated by the Sheriff's Office. The program also teaches participants techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home, in their vehicles and in public places. We also train participants on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and sounds, evaluate them and how to properly report them. It also teaches members how to make their homes more secure, to properly identify their property and how to "LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!" A watch is a cohesive body of concerned, involved, Neighbor-participants addressing issues that concern the entire neighborhood.

A Neighborhood Watch is NOT a vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of the Sheriff's Office. It is NOT a program designed for participants to undertake personal risks to deter crime. Last, it is NOT a 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in or around your neighborhood.

What Are The Benefits Of A Neighborhood Watch Program?

The eight most important benefits of being involved in your own Neighborhood Watch Program are:

1. Neighborhood policing by you and your neighbors, together with your own police or Sheriff, creates a greater sense of security, well being, and reduction of fear of crime because you know you and your neighbors will "LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!" Most law enforcement agencies are limited in their available manpower. You help stretch that tax dollar and add eyes, ears, and even noses by your involvement in Neighborhood Watch.
2. Reduce the risk of being a crime victim. You are taught how to take preventative measures that substantially decrease the likelihood of becoming a crime victim. May also reduce the risk of vandalism, graffiti, personal assault, auto theft and other personal crimes against you or family members.
3. The Neighborhood Watch program trains you how to observe and report suspicious activities occurring in your neighborhood. It trains you on what information law enforcement officers need when you report a crime and why. It trains you to detect illegal activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
4. Knowing your neighbors is an important feature and benefit of this program. You get to know participants regular patterns so you can see when something is unusual. You get to know how to contact them quickly. Being aware of the goings-on in your neighborhood is not invading anyone's privacy or snooping, it is guarding against trouble or any situation which could be dangerous to your neighborhood. It simply comes down to the motto, "WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!"
5. You have greater access to criminal activity information. Neighborhood Watch Programs are designed to keep participants informed of crime trends and patterns so they will be better prepared to spot criminal activity in their neighborhood.
6. Participants get on-going training in how to protect themselves and family members.
7. Posting Watch signs on your street and labels or decals in your windows tells a criminal that:

- You are not an easy target.
- They are probably being watched.
- You have taken steps necessary to deter crime in your area

Convicted burglars report avoiding areas with Neighborhood Watch Program signs posted.

8. Address issues of mutual interest by getting together with your neighbors on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, or whenever you wish). These may be for other crime prevention, fire prevention, local planning, or other projects which you alone may say “Why don’t they do something about....!” As a community, as an organization already working together as a Neighborhood Watch group, you have the stepping stone needed to get things done.



For information on how to start a watch program or get involved in one in your community, please contact Deputy Steve Fox at 740-295-7476 or [email him](#).

