



## Neighborhood Watch

*A healthy community program*



### What is Neighborhood Watch?

1. Neighborhood Watch encourages community collaboration to maintain a healthy and vibrant neighborhood; an element shown by research to significantly reduce your risk for residential crime.
2. Through collaboration neighbors develop a plan to communicate and tackle issues like crime and suspicious activity.
3. Neighborhood Watch is not a guard duty.
4. Neighborhood Watch teaches neighbors to look at their community in a new way - understanding what is normal and identifying what is suspicious. Neighborhood Watch then teaches neighbors what resources to use and when to use them.
5. Through Neighborhood Watch you will learn:
  - About your neighbors.
  - How to effectively communicate with your neighbors.
  - How to call the police and what to say.
  - How to resolve the neighborhood issues that concern you.

### Getting started

1. What area are you trying to organize?
  - a. A block or street?
  - b. A homeowners' association (HOA)?
2. If you choose a., a block or street
  - a. Look at a map and count out a group of **12-20 homes** that surround you. Include all the homes on the map. This is called a "Neighborhood Watch Block," and is a reasonably managed group of people.

3. If you choose b., your HOA
  - a. Look at a map and divide the area into groups of 12-20 **homes**.
  - b. Each group of **12-20 homes** will be called a Neighborhood Watch Block. The group of Neighborhood Watch Blocks will be called a “Neighborhood Watch District.”
4. Now you need a Neighborhood Watch block captain.
  - a. You need one person per Neighborhood Watch block to be the block’s captain.
  - b. A Neighborhood Watch block captain is the spokesperson for the block and the liaison the police department.
  - c. It is not a great investment of time, just a leadership role.

### **Stop - Block captains start here**

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#### **Block Captains**

1. Introduce yourself.
  1. Personally speak to the residents in your block of **12-20 homes**.
  2. Use the first page of this guide to share the goal of the Neighborhood Watch Program.
  3. Let neighbors know that participation does not require a great deal of their time; it is about getting to know each other and understanding resources like the police department.
  4. Ask your neighbors what day would be best for a Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

### **Preparing for your meeting**

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1. Create a map of your Neighborhood Watch Block.
  - a. Include the streets and all the houses on your block.
  - b. This will create a visual image and a quick reference.
  - c. Put the name, address and phone number on each house.
  - d. Make copies to distribute to each neighbor at the meeting.
2. Provide and distribute nametags.
  - a. Remember you want your neighbors to get to know each other.
  - b. Write names and street numbers on the tag.
3. Assign tasks.
  - a. Have someone take attendance.
  - b. Have someone take notes.

## What to do after your meeting

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1. Gather important neighborhood information.
  - a. Remember this information helps you and your neighbors establish what is normal so you can take-action when something is suspicious. It also gives you valuable resources to help your neighbors when necessary.
  - b. Examples are - work schedules, work phone number, contracted services (gardeners, nannies, and housekeepers), vehicle information and vacations.
2. Create a plan for neighborhood communication. Methods for enhancing communication are - e-mail trees, newsletters, regular social gatherings, social media private group and text trees.
5. Follow-through with the action plan developed at the first meeting. Assign tasks to get the ball rolling. Set a time to check-in to see how the tasks are developing toward the neighborhood goal. Regularly let the entire group know about the plan's progress.

