

## **Starting a Neighborhood Watch Group**

Contact Police Community Programs Coordinator Wendy Smith at (916) 625-5440, or by email at [Wendy.Smith@rocklin.ca.us](mailto:Wendy.Smith@rocklin.ca.us) to schedule a Neighborhood Watch meeting. The meeting may be held at your residence or at a local school, park, church, library, or community center. The meetings are typically held on weeknights beginning at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m., and last approximately 90 minutes.

Once you set a meeting date, the Police Department will provide you with a supply of meeting announcements to distribute to your neighbors. Whenever possible, it helps to make personal contact with your neighbors to invite them, rather than leaving an announcement on their doorstep.

## **What Happens at the Meeting?**

A Rocklin Police representative will conduct the meeting and will discuss

1. crime in Rocklin and your area
2. how and when to contact the police
3. setting up a neighborhood map and roster
4. home safety and security
5. how criminals typically work
6. crime prevention techniques and products
7. installing Neighborhood Watch signs
8. selecting a Block Captain and Co-Captain
9. solving neighborhood problems
10. keeping the group active and informed

In addition to meeting your neighbors, you will have the opportunity to interact with the Rocklin Police Community Programs Coordinator and a neighborhood police patrol officer.

## **What is a Block Captain?**

The Block Captain and the Co-Captain are the liaisons between the Neighborhood Watch group and the Rocklin Police Department. They make sure the map and roster are completed. And the Neighborhood Watch signs are purchased and installed. They also schedule at least one Neighborhood Watch meeting or function per year, maintain a current membership roster/map, and distribute Neighborhood Watch Newsletters and Crime Alert Bulletins provided by the Police Department. Many groups rotate the Block Captain and Co-Captain positions on a yearly basis.

## **Neighborhood Watch Signs**

Every official group must have at least one metal Neighborhood Watch sign mounted in their area. These signs can act as a deterrent by letting potential criminals know that area residents are organized and ready to call the Police Department when they observe suspicious activity.

The signs are 18" x 24", and can be purchased at the Rocklin Police Department for \$34.00 each. The Rocklin Public Works Department will mount the signs on any existing metal City street light pole or sign pole on public property. If the signs are being placed on private property, you may purchase the signs from the Police Department, but you must install them yourself.

## **Communication and Activities**

In addition to relying on maps and telephone rosters, some groups use email, newsletters, fliers, faxes, websites, and two-way radios to communicate. Try using more than one!

When it comes to activities, you are only limited by your imagination. Meetings may be organized to address specific problems such as burglary, theft, traffic violations, etc. However, it shouldn't always take something "negative" to generate a meeting. Consider organizing a fun activity such as a barbecue, progressive dinner, movie or game night, neighborhood clean up, or a walking or biking event. You might also organize a CPR/First-aid class, or a nighttime neighborhood lighting inspection.

## **National Night Out**

National Night Out occurs annually on the first Tuesday in August. On that evening, every Neighborhood Watch group is encouraged to have an outdoor social event to promote community spirit and crime prevention. The Rocklin Police Department participates in the event every year, and holds a special contest. Please contact Police Community Programs Coordinator Wendy Smith at (916) 625-5440, and check out the National Night Out section of this website.

## **For More Information About Neighborhood Watch**

Contact Police Community Programs Coordinator Wendy Smith by telephone at (916) 625-5440, or by email at [Wendy.Smith@rocklin.ca.us](mailto:Wendy.Smith@rocklin.ca.us) to find out more about Rocklin's Neighborhood Watch program.