



WHY ARE VOLUNTEERS IMPORTANT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT?

Law enforcement volunteer programs are not designed to replace sworn or civilian personnel. Rather, volunteers are used to supplement and enhance existing or envisioned functions to allow law enforcement professionals to do their job in the most effective manner. Volunteers can provide innumerable benefits to a law enforcement agency. They can help enhance public safety and services, maximize existing resources, and create valuable ties between law enforcement and members of the community. Investing in a volunteer program can help sworn and civilian employees fulfill their primary functions and provide services that may not otherwise be offered.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED WITH VIPS?

To become part of the VIPS initiative and be included in the VIPS online directory of volunteer programs, you must be a state, tribal or local law enforcement agency offering volunteer opportunities or an organization working in partnership with a law enforcement agency to offer volunteer opportunities, such as a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program or a Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. You can register your program online at www.policevolunteers.org.

If you are interested in volunteering with a law enforcement agency, visit the online directory of law enforcement volunteer program at www.policevolunteers.org to find a program near you.

VIPS PROGRAM HISTORY



In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush announced the creation of the USA

Freedom Corps, an effort to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility, building on the generous spirit of the American people. The Citizen Corps programs are part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative and share the common goal of helping communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to crime, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

One of the Citizen Corps partner programs is the



Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) manages and implements the VIPS Program in partnership with and on behalf of the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice.



The program's goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. The program serves as a gateway to information for law enforcement agencies and citizens interested in law enforcement volunteer programs.



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ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT



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PROGRAM PARTNERS

USA Freedom Corps

.....www.usafreedomcorps.gov

Citizen Corps

.....www.citizencorps.gov

Neighborhood Watch - USA on Watch

.....www.usaonwatch.org

Community Emergency Response Team

.....www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/

Medical Reserve Corps

.....www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Fire Corps

.....www.firecorps.org

Bureau of Justice Assistance

.....www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA

SAMPLE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Administrative/clerical support
- Victim support and services
- Reserve/auxiliary programs
- Neighborhood Watch
- Explorer Posts
- Computer programming
- Translation services
- Chaplain support
- Search and rescue
- Special event support
- Internships

RESOURCE CENTER

The VIPS Program offers a host of resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs. These resources can be accessed by visiting the VIPS website at www.policevolunteers.org.

- An online directory of law enforcement volunteer programs.
- A resource library of sample documents, forms and materials from law enforcement volunteer programs and other sources.
- A resource guide, *Volunteer Programs: Enhancing Public Safety by Leveraging Resources*, to assist in the establishment or enhancement of a law enforcement volunteer program.
- A model policy on volunteers.
- *VIPS in Focus*, a publication series addressing specific elements and issues related to law enforcement volunteer programs.
- Training and educational seminars for law enforcement.
- No-cost technical assistance for law enforcement agencies.
- Educational videos.
- *VIPS Info*, a monthly newsletter about resources and services for law enforcement volunteer programs.



“...we should continue to strengthen partnerships between citizens and local law enforcement and work to engage more volunteers in public safety and emergency preparedness.”

*President George W. Bush,
May 9, 2003*

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