



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?

For a state or local law enforcement agency to become part of the VIPS initiative and to register as a VIPS program, its volunteers must work in an in-house volunteer program or one operating in concert with a law enforcement agency. Registration can be completed online at the VIPS Web site, www.policevolunteers.org.

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

VIPS PROGRAM HISTORY

President George W. Bush created USA Freedom Corps (USAFC) to build on the countless acts of service, sacrifice, and generosity that followed September 11. As a White House office, USAFC is charged with building a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America. Citizen Corps, a vital component of USAFC, was created to help coordinate volunteer activities to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation.



Citizen Corps partner programs build on the successful efforts in place in many communities around the country to prevent crime and respond to emergencies. VIPS is one of five Citizen Corps partner programs. The International Association of Chiefs of Police 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, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The program's ultimate goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers.



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ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

515 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

1-800-THE-IACP

info@policevolunteers.org
www.policevolunteers.org



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.citizencorps.gov/cert

Medical Reserve Corps

.....www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Fire Corps

.....www.firecorps.org

Bureau of Justice Assistance,
Office of Justice Programs

.....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 Web site at www.policevolunteers.org.

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