

Citizen Patrol History

Citizen Patrols or similarly named programs have been in existence for many years. During WWII, the nation lost many of its police officers due to being drafted into military service. This gap was filled with some of the first Citizen Patrols who augmented law enforcement agencies in non-enforcement functions. Our agency's Citizen Patrol began in 2010 with the main purpose of deterring car break-ins in the Columbia River Gorge. Members of the Citizen Patrol act as extra "eyes and ears" for law enforcement and work under the VIPS (Volunteers in Policing) program. Since the Unit's inception, Citizen Patrol volunteers have repeatedly provided patrol deputies with information that have led to the arrest of various suspects.

The Mission

The mission of the Citizen Patrol program is to help reduce crime and the fear of crime. This is accomplished by providing a visible presence as a deterrent to criminal activity. Citizen Patrollers focus on deterring criminal activities such as vehicle break-ins in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Other missions include: school patrols, vacation house checks and assisting during natural disasters or other emergencies by providing emergency communications and damage assessments.



Donations

The Citizen Patrol has no operating budget and almost all equipment is either self-purchased or obtained through generous donations. To make a donation, please write a check to: NEMMCA (NE Multnomah County Community Association) and write "Citizen Patrol" in the note section.

Mail Checks to:
Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
Attention: Citizen Patrol Liaison Deputy
234 SW Kendall Ct.
Troutdale, OR 97060

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MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Citizen Patrol Volunteer Program



Member Requirements

1. Be at least 21 years of age
2. The ability to drive the Citizen Patrol car during patrols
3. Have access to e-mail and a cell phone
4. Have a valid Oregon driver's license
5. No prior felony convictions
6. Volunteer a minimum of 6-hours per month

Application Process

1. Complete an application and screening process
2. Pass a background check
3. Successfully pass the initial training

How To Apply

You may begin the application process several ways:

Call or email the county Volunteer Coordinator at: (503) 988-3390 or volunteer.services@mcsos.us

Or you can apply online at <http://www.mcsos.us>. Click on "How do I" and then follow the links to apply with the Citizen Patrol.

For additional information you can view a video at www.youtube.com by typing "Multnomah County Citizen Patrol" in the search line.

How Patrols Operate

Members always work with a partner during their patrols. Members choose when to volunteer based upon their own availability. Monthly trainings are offered on topics ranging from disaster preparedness to "Confrontational Simulation" scenarios. Members may choose which trainings they attend and when they patrol, however a minimum of 6-hours per month is required.



Free training classes are held throughout the year

Emergency Preparedness

HAM radio licensing is encouraged but not required for Citizen Patrol members. The Citizen Patrol unit works closely with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and the Multnomah County Office of Emergency Management. The Citizen Patrol utilizes a county repeater for conducting specialized patrol functions. The unit also has numerous "Go-Radios" for quick mobilization and communications support during a disaster or other emergency.



Citizen Patrollers with Life Flight at the Corbett National Night Out

Yes, You Can Make a Difference

Become a member and enjoy patrolling in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The work is rewarding, the training is free and your commitment to the community is priceless.