



Community safety is a shared responsibility.

What is Block Watch?

Frequently Asked Questions

BLOCK WATCH is a program designed to increase security on neighborhood blocks by involving as many individuals and families as possible in a united crime prevention effort.

What do participants learn in Block Watch?

Participants in BLOCK WATCH learn to:

- ◆ Be familiar with neighborhoods and activities on the block.
- ◆ Recognize and report suspicious activity.
- ◆ Increase home security.
- ◆ Engrave property correctly.
- ◆ Communicate with neighbors on a regular basis using block maps, phone trees, etc.

What is the mission of Block Watch?

"We believe that Longview residents have the right to livable and secure neighborhoods in order to pursue their lives free of fear and crime.

"We believe it is the responsibility of citizens to build and maintain livable, cohesive neighborhoods. We encourage people to support and help each other in crime prevention efforts.

"We believe citizen involvement is an integral part of maintaining an effective and vital police service. We believe in encouraging partnerships between citizens, police and other governmental agencies to make the most of resources to improve the livability and safety of neighborhoods.

"We believe that committed citizens and police, working cooperatively toward these goals, create a united and secure community. This reduces vulnerability to crime."

What are the goals of Block Watch?

Goal 1 - We will reduce the level of fear of crime in our neighborhoods.

Goal 2 - We, as citizens, will accept the responsibility to increase neighborhood livability and reduce crime in our neighborhoods.

Goal 3 - We will assist in increasing community awareness and home security to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur at your home.



Longview Police Department

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Highlands Police Satellite Office

216 30th Avenue, Suite C
Longview, WA 98632
360.442.5850

Longview Police Department



Why do police departments encourage residents to form Block Watch groups?

There are many more citizens than there are law enforcement officers. Because law enforcement officers can't be everywhere at once, we rely on citizens to notify us of criminal activities and suspicious behavior. This helps law enforcement in apprehending criminals. Also, criminals may think twice about targeting a particular area if they know that citizens are watching out for suspicious activity.

The best crime prevention device ever invented is a good neighbor. Joint organized efforts are more effective than individual efforts.

Citizens become an extension of a law enforcement agency's eyes and ears.

Through citizen involvement, the community is provided with a large supply of local neighbors to watch their neighborhood for suspicious activities or crimes

What are some helpful activities to improve my neighborhood?

- ◆ Help neighbors secure their homes.
- ◆ Help a senior citizen trim shrubbery, mow the lawn or install lighting.
- ◆ Haul lawn clippings to the dump or arrange for a drop box on the block. Give lawn clippings to a neighbor who has a compost pile.

- ◆ Arrange the details for a block party or offer your home for a follow-up meeting.
- ◆ Write and distribute neighborhood newsletters or offer to copy BLOCK WATCH information.
- ◆ Use engravers for marking property.
- ◆ Mow the neighbors' lawn while they are on vacation. Let them do the same when you're gone.
- ◆ Put up BLOCK WATCH signs at the beginning and end of your street *if you have an active BLOCK WATCH.*
- ◆ Trade favors or chores such as mowing a neighbor's lawn if he'll repair your fence. Watch the neighbor's children if she'll take care of your pets when you're out of town. Be creative. What can you do to benefit a neighbor and how can a neighbor help you?

Where can we gather to talk about Block Watch?

- ◆ Neighbors can take turns hosting the meetings at their homes.
- ◆ Get together at an area church.
- ◆ Reserve a room at the Longview Public Library.
- ◆ Have a barbecue or picnic at a neighborhood park.



Is it risky or dangerous to be involved with Block Watch?

Block Watch is a cooperative effort to work *with* your neighbors, not against them. Block Watch is

NOT:

- ◆ Taking the law into your own hands or taking the place of police.
- ◆ Enforcing the law or apprehending criminals.
- ◆ Being violent or being a vigilante.
- ◆ Acting as "the boss" of your block.

More Information

For more information about Block Watch, please contact the LPD Highlands Satellite Office at 216 30th Avenue, Suite C, behind the St. Helens Shopping Center.

You may reach the Highlands Satellite Office at 360.442.5850 or via e-mail at:

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