

Since September 11, 2001, the demand on state and local law enforcement has increased dramatically. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, like all other agencies, is focusing more on Homeland Security issues, while still performing law enforcement functions. Today, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are forming partnerships with the community to assist us in our mission.

The Sheriff's Office is working hard to ensure public safety and strengthen our relationship with the citizens we serve. None of this could be accomplished without the help and support of the community to assist with important administrative and non-intervention law enforcement related activities.



WHAT is the Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program?

The Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program (VCP) is based on the concept of utilizing the talents and skills of volunteers from within the local community as partners in public safety. Citizen Patrol volunteers are specially trained by the Sheriff's Office to respond to many non-emergency and routine calls for service that do not require law enforcement or regulatory authority.

Citizen Patrol volunteers also perform proactive "neighborhood watch" patrols in their local communities, acting as the "eyes and ears" for law enforcement.

WHY was the VCPP created?

- ❖ To reduce crime
- ❖ To improve the safety of our citizens
- ❖ To improve the quality of life within Hillsborough County
- ❖ To enhance our relationship with the community
- ❖ To allow the community members to become active participants in the process of crime control and prevention

HOW does it work?

Volunteers donate their time to patrol neighborhoods and respond to specific non-emergency calls for service while driving specially marked Sheriff's Office vehicles. Citizen Patrol Volunteers are not law enforcement officers, but are trained on how to spot suspicious criminal activity. Volunteers receive training in areas such as crime prevention, first-aid, traffic control and community policing.

The VCPP consists of three patrol shifts per day, seven days a week. Each VCPP vehicle will patrol with two volunteers per shift.

Citizen Patrol Volunteer activities:

- ❖ Patrol neighborhoods
- ❖ Assist with school crossings
- ❖ Conduct vacation checks
- ❖ Document graffiti
- ❖ Monitor suspicious activity at schools
- ❖ Assist disabled motorists
- ❖ Assist with road obstructions
- ❖ Assist with traffic direction
- ❖ Conduct traffic surveys



WHO can volunteer and what are the requirements?

- ❖ US citizens
- ❖ 19 years of age or older
- ❖ Possess a valid driver's license
- ❖ Must pass a screening process
- ❖ Must complete the VCPP Training Academy given by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
- ❖ Must be willing to attend monthly meetings
- ❖ Must be willing to volunteer a minimum of 12 hours per month

The VCPP Benefits the Community by Providing:

- ❖ Citizens with an active means to make a difference in our community.
- ❖ Increased public presence in the community to deter crime.
- ❖ An interactive and collaborative partnership between the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and the citizens we serve.
- ❖ Law enforcement deputies with the support they need to dedicate more of their time to pro-active law enforcement, in-depth investigation and other law enforcement services.
- ❖ Reduced crime and enhanced quality of life for the entire community.

WHY is the VCPP Important to our Community?

Every day, the uniformed men and women representing the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office strive to protect our neighborhoods, reduce crime, and uphold the laws of our community.

Crime prevention and enhanced quality of life is everyone's responsibility. Only by working together will we address and resolve community problems and affect lasting change in the communities where we live and raise our families.

Want to Learn More?

You may request the Sheriff's Office Volunteer Citizen Patrol (VCP) coordinator to visit your community, church or civic group meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities! Contact the VCP coordinator at the number below for additional program information.

For more information about the Volunteer Citizens Patrol Program, contact:

**Hillsborough County
Sheriff's Office
Community Outreach Division
Volunteer Section
10119 Windhorst Rd
Tampa, FL 33619**

(813) 247-8115

www.teamhcsso.com

VOLUNTEER CITIZEN PATROL PROGRAM



PARTNERS IN PUBLIC SAFETY

***Sheriff Chad Chronister
needs your help!***

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CHAD CHRONISTER, SHERIFF**