



# Neighborhood Watch Program

Neighborhood Watch is an extremely successful crime prevention program. It enlists the participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime. A sense of well-being is established by watching out for each other. The Neighborhood Watch Program has been in existence for more than thirty years in cities and counties across America. The National Sheriffs' Association implemented the program in 1972. The Modesto Neighborhood Watch program has the National Crime Prevention Association (NCPA) Certification. Within Modesto, neighborhood groups are organized by the Crime Prevention Unit of the Modesto Police Department.

A resident or two become captains and organize, maintain, and distribute a list with contact information to those who participate in their neighborhood watch (it can include a couple of blocks on each side of the street, or the size can be determined by the captains). The groups build a spirit of community that enhances safety by watching out for each other and their property.

**For information on how to start a Neighborhood Watch Group, or find out if one already exists in your area contact:**

Modesto Police Department Crime Prevention Unit  
600 10th Street  
Modesto, CA 95354

CSO Heather Graves: [gravesh@modestopd.com](mailto:gravesh@modestopd.com), (209) 572-9636  
CSO Christy Beffa: [beffac@modestopd.com](mailto:beffac@modestopd.com), (209) 572-9639

Heather and Christy will work with your group by providing useful information pertaining to your neighborhood, being your liaison with the police department, and helping you organize a group. They are also available to meet with your group as needed.










**Included in this packet are:**

How to Become a Neighborhood Watch Captain  
Sample Invitation Letter  
Sample Sign Up Sheet

# How to Become a Neighborhood Watch Captain or Co-captain

Others who have organized their neighborhood watch groups may be available to help you.

## Why Get Involved in a Neighborhood Watch Group?

-  To get to know your neighbors.
-  To increase safety for yourself, your family, and property.
-  To help reduce crime and to learn crime reduction skills and prevention tips.
-  To inform participants of crime alerts.
-  To help address neighborhood problems which concern you.
-  To learn how to make reports to your law enforcement agency.
-  To join your neighbors in a National Night Out gathering, events, and optional meetings.
-  To gain information about Neighborhood Watch street signs and window decals.
-  To meet with other Neighborhood Watch captains to share information.

### 1. How to Get Started

**We encourage you to find a neighbor to do this with and have fun. It is an excellent way to get to know more of your neighbors.** To start a Neighborhood Watch Group, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at the Modesto Police Department to register. If your group has been active in the past but is not registered, please update your information with Heather or Christy.

CSO Heather Graves, [gravesh@modestopd.com](mailto:gravesh@modestopd.com), 572-9636  
CSO Christy Beffa, [beffac@modestopd.com](mailto:beffac@modestopd.com), 572-9639

### 2. Determine the number of households with which you want to start.

It can be just your block on both sides of the street, or two blocks, or more.

### 3. Invite your neighbors to sign up for Neighborhood Watch.

This packet includes a sample letter and sign-up sheet.

### 4. Compile this information into a Neighborhood Watch list.

On the bottom of this list make a note that this information is confidential. Create an e-mail address list on your computer so the Neighborhood Watch Captain can send messages to those participating.

### 5. Hand out to each household the following items:

Cover sheet or half sheet saying thank you for signing up.

The Neighborhood Watch list, which includes each participating household.

### 6. Keep up-to-date information on new and moved residents on the handout and e-mail lists.

You may need to handout a new list annually with these changes.

And remember, others who have formed their Neighborhood Watch groups may be available to help you. There are also periodic meetings for the Neighborhood Watch captains to get together to share information.

# Dear Neighbor, You are invited to sign up for Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood.



Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime. *A sense of well-being is established by watching out for each other.* The Neighborhood Watch Program is a highly successful effort that has been in existence for more than thirty years in cities and counties across America. The National Sheriffs' Association implemented the program in 1972. The Modesto Neighborhood Watch program has the National Crime Prevention Association (NCPA) Certification. Within Modesto, neighborhood groups are organized through the Crime Prevention Unit of the Modesto Police Department.

A resident or two become captain/s and organize, maintain, and distribute a list with contact information to those who participate in their neighborhood watch.

## Why Get Involved in a Neighborhood Watch Group?

- To get to know your neighbors.
- To increase safety for yourself, your family, and property.
- To help reduce crime, and to learn crime reduction skills and prevention tips.
- To keep informed of crime alerts in your area.
- To help address neighborhood problems which concern you.
- To learn how to make reports to your law enforcement agency.
- To join in a National Night Out gathering once a year in your neighborhood, or attend other neighborhood meetings (optional).

## How to Sign Up

If you would like to be part of the neighborhood watch group, please fill out the form on the following page. **This information will ONLY be given to participants of your neighborhood watch group.**

Your Neighborhood Watch Captain/s:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
cell/home phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
cell/home phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

At this time our Neighborhood Watch Group will include the block/s of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Optional: A meeting is scheduled for Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hope you will consider helping build a stronger, safer neighborhood. Please call or e-mail if you have any questions, or would like more information about Neighborhood Watch.*

# Neighborhood Watch Group Sign Up Sheet

Please enter your information below. Only include information that you feel comfortable sharing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please select how you would like your e-mail used:

**List** my e-mail on the neighborhood watch list. *This information will ONLY be given to those listed on your neighborhood watch group list.*

**Do Not list** my e-mail on the neighborhood watch list, but it can be used by the coordinators to send information to me.

Any additional information? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## You can mail this back, or drop it by the address below:

(This is your Neighborhood Watch Captain.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your interest in creating a community feeling in our neighborhood and enhancing safety for each other.*

# **JOIN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

**Neighborhood Watch is coming to our community,  
and we need to get involved.**

**What's in it for you? Safer streets and homes,  
community spirit, camaraderie with your neighbors,  
stronger relationships with law enforcement,  
and so much more.**

**Join us for a neighborhood watch meeting.**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT PERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Let's join together and take back our community!**