

Q. What is Code: Blue?

Code: Blue is a cooperative effort between the city of Fort Worth, the federal government and interested citizens who wish to help control crime in their neighborhood. Fort Worth's former Mayor Kay Granger and Chief of Police Thomas Windham developed this new program to fight increasing crime in our city, after attending a Crime Symposium in Washington D.C. The largest portion of the Code: Blue package is the Citizens on Patrol neighborhood program, funded through government grants.

Q. What is Citizens on Patrol (COPS)?

Citizens on Patrol acts as the "eyes and ears" for the police department in the neighborhood. Private citizens volunteer time to actively patrol their communities to observe and to report suspicious and /or criminal activities to the appropriate authorities. Its primary purpose is to help reduce crime in the neighborhood through cooperation with the police department.

Q. How does COPS benefit the neighborhood?

Increased security of homes and property, increased code enforcement and increased neighborhood involvement deter crime in your neighborhood. These patrols provide a visible presence of police authority which help prohibit criminal activities. COPS also develops a relationship between the police and the community which aids in prompt police response. This safety and security from crime makes your neighborhood a quality place to live.



Q. Does COPS reduce crime?

The success of citizens patrols in major cities, such as New York and Washington D.C. to reduce crime is a major factor in Fort Worth's dedication to Code: Blue. COPS provides greater observation of the neighborhood which increases police authority in the community and reduces crime.

The Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) routinely patrols with the citizen patrol which greatly reduces police response time in the neighborhood from minutes to seconds. The NPO also monitors all crime in the community to help target specific areas of concern for the individual neighborhoods. As a result, COPS knows the best times to patrol and which types of behaviors to look for the most. COPS can then educate residents to better prevent crime in their communities.

Citizens on Patrol Objectives

- To assist the police department through observation
 - To help reduce crime in our neighborhoods
 - To increase cooperation between citizens and police officers
 - To educate citizens on crime prevention
 - To increase the public presence in the neighborhood
 - To unite residents for a dedicated reason
 - To increase crime awareness among the citizens of the neighborhoods
 - To improve the quality of life in the neighborhood
 - To provide a safe, secure environment for all neighborhood residents
 - To make a difference in your neighborhood
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Q. How can I join COPS?

Simply notify your Neighborhood Patrol Officer, attend a training session for COPS and complete 2 ride-ins with Fort Worth Police Officers. The informal training classes educate citizens on observation techniques and police procedures. The ride-ins then allow citizens a more understanding of law enforcement in Fort Worth. After completion of the training and ride-ins, citizens are ready to patrol and/or base for COPS. COPS' participants are not police officers, and are trained for observation purposes only.

Q. How much time do I need to commit to COPS?

Only the time you want to! Citizens are needed to patrol the neighborhood and or to man the base station for a 2 hour shift. If you can spare only 2 hours a month, COPS needs you! However, if you're interested in donating more time each month, COPS will gladly keep you busy.

Patrols are conducted in personal vehicles with appropriate COPS identification on magnetic signs attached to the car. Hats, shirts and jackets with the Code: Blue logo are supplied to each volunteer. State-of-the-art radios will be provided for patrollers to maintain contact with the base operator at all times.

Base operators simply record any observations and make appropriate calls for police assistance when necessary.