

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. Our agency's Citizen Patrol began in 2010 with the main purpose of deterring car break-ins in the Columbia River Gorge. In 2019, the Citizen Patrol partnered with the City of Fairview to patrol their area parks. Members of the Citizen Patrol act as extra "eyes and ears" for law enforcement. 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 work in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, the Corbett community and within the City of Fairview. Secondary missions include supporting Law Enforcement and Fire personnel during natural disasters or other emergencies and assisting at community events such as the National Night Out.



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

Updated 1.21.20

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 or Washington 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 email volunteer.services@mcsou.us

You can also begin the initial application process online at: www.mcsocp.com. This website has an informational video link, photos, a training schedule and other relevant information about the program.

For additional information about the Sheriff's Office, visit: www.mcsou.us

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.



Members receive free monthly training

Emergency Preparedness

The Citizen Patrol unit works closely with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and the Multnomah County Office of Emergency Management. The Citizen Patrol has their own VHF radio repeater and numerous "Go-Radios" for quick mobilization and communications support during a disaster or other emergency. Members are trained in Incident Command System protocols and have the ability to self-deploy in the event that phone communications are inoperable.



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 and the parks and trails of Fairview. The work is rewarding, the training is free and your commitment to the community is priceless.