

# **Patrol Planning**

## **Dress**

- Dress for the weather, for comfort, and for easy movement. A fanny pack or pockets will be the best way to carry any personal items you want to have with you. Carry as little as possible for easy movement. A backpack may work as well if it's not too heavy.
- Although some Citizen Patrols wear designated clothing or reflective vests or jackets for easy identification, other Citizen Patrols may opt to simply wear regular civilian clothing. This is especially appropriate when acting in a covert capacity to monitor an area for thefts or other criminal activity. However, patrol members must wear Citizen Patrol t-shirts and/or vests or a Citizen Patrol jacket (self-purchased) when on normal patrol. The Citizen Patrol ball cap is encouraged to be worn but not required.

## **Meeting with Fellow Patrol Members**

- At least two members must be present for a patrol
- Patrols must be during daylight hours; dawn to dusk.
- Focus your patrols on areas that have been experiencing significant crime problems.
- Meet with the other patrol members in a location that makes the most sense for everyone. This might be a member's house, an area business, a parking lot, or wherever the patrol equipment is kept.

## **“Undercover” Patrols**

It's not uncommon for vehicle break-ins to occur in an area immediately after the uniformed Citizen Patrol members have left the area. If this issue arises, undercover patrols may be utilized only when a specific mission is overseen by a deputy whom is present in the area. Patrolling undercover (in regular clothing without the uniform vest) may be a desired tactic in some situations. *Solo undercover patrols are not allowed.*

## **Other Missions**

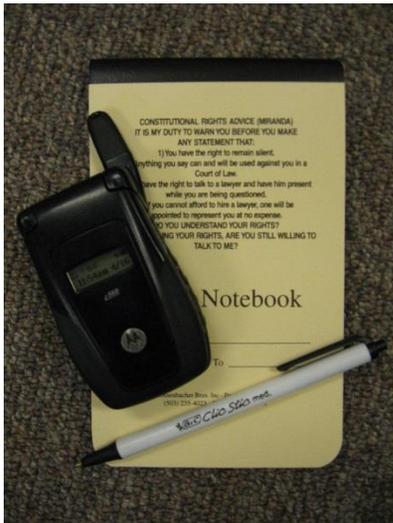
In other situations such as chronic vandalism at a school or business, the liaison deputy will make a specific request from the Citizen Patrol to patrol at a specific location and time. In these situations, 2 members must still be present; however neither is required to wear the uniform vest. It's preferred that both members remain in their vehicle if possible. You are not authorized to walk behind buildings or other remote locations in an attempt to observe suspects. Logging in and out with Records is especially important when patrolling in this manner.

## **Equipment**

- Each member must carry a notebook and pen for recording incidents or conditions that need to be reported, and be equipped with a flashlight if the patrol is in the evening. The flashlight enables you to see your patrol area better, and allows the police to find you more easily if you need to summon them. The group must have at least one cell phone with them on patrol so they can call 911 or the non-emergency number if necessary. Your

car must be insured and in well maintained. It's advised that members carry road flares (which can be obtained from the liaison deputy), blankets, water and food in the event that you get assigned to an incident such as a serious injury car crash or a missing hiker. Members have been assigned to block a roadways for prolonged periods of time.

- Usually patrol members supply their own flashlights, notebooks, pens and cell phones and bring them along on patrol.
- Some patrols prefer to share this equipment and leave it in a central location for the patrol to pick up each time they go out. At least one person must carry a cell phone during the patrol.
- Members will be issued a Citizen Patrol hat, t-shirt and vest *if* available. Otherwise members are required to purchase their own from Hammar's Uniforms (503-667-4911, 1075 NW Corporate Drive, Troutdale). Members may also purchase their own stocking caps, or fluorescent jackets with the Citizen Patrol log.



BRING THIS.....



NOT THIS!

### Selecting your Patrol Area and Time

• Identify which areas of the neighborhood you want to patrol, being sure to discuss any particular areas where the patrol may need to be especially alert. Select a route that is within the boundaries that your specific Citizen Patrol has selected. Preplan your route and the amount of time it will take to do the patrol. All the members should begin and end with a preplanned destination. If members cannot walk the full route because of time or physical constraints, the Citizen Patrol needs to discuss how this will impact the patrol for that day or evening. The Patrol will consider the following: residents' complaints or concerns; crime patterns in the area; existence of Neighborhood Watches or Business Watches; identified problem locations; safety of patrol members; and natural borders. The Sheriff's Office liaison can assist in identifying problem areas and times and he or she may even take you to the problem area prior to your patrol.

### Check-in with the Sheriff's Office

- Notifying the Sheriff's Office is important for the safety of both patrol members and the deputies working in the area. Some deputies may even request to meet with you to share new and important information about recent criminal activity.

- Notify the Sheriff's Office Records Unit that the patrol is heading out. They need to know the area that will be patrolled, how many patrol members are going out, the time the patrol will end, and the cell phone number where the patrol can be reached. Records will then notify the shift supervisor so that patrolling deputies will be aware of your presence in a particular area. **The Records phone number for Citizen Patrol is 503-988-0400. The public number for Records is 503-988-7300.** If you're certified to use the patrol car and radio, you may also utilize the Records net on the radio to check in and out.



Sheriff's Office Records Unit