

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Can we have a driving patrol?*

It is far easier to see and respond to problems in the neighborhood when on foot. When you are driving, your attention should be on safely driving the car. It is recommended that you drive to the patrol location as necessary, but to conduct the actual patrol on foot. Some situations may dictate observing the area while seated in your parked vehicle. However, when you're on foot you can devote your attention to the area itself, which is the purpose of a Citizen Patrol. For these reasons driving patrols are not encouraged.

*Can minors be part of the patrol?*

No, Citizen Patrol members must be 21 years of age or older. However, Job Corps Protective Services student members must be at least 18.

*Can I invite a ride-along?*

Ride-alongs are generally not approved. In some situations approval may be given by the liaison deputy. It is ok to bring a friend to a training meeting with the prior approval of the liaison deputy.

*Can I bring my dog?*

No.

*Do I need a cell phone when patrolling?*

Yes, a cell phone is required by at least one person in the Patrol. Preferably, all patrolling members should carry a cell phone that has coverage in the patrol area.

*Can I bring my gun if I have a concealed weapons permit? What about pepper spray or another weapon for self-defense?*

Even if you choose to carry a weapon for self-protection in other circumstances, you may not do so while patrolling with your Citizen Patrol. If you insist upon carrying your weapon with you at all times, Citizen Patrol is not for you. There are other ways you can serve your community if you are interested. Your Sheriff's Office liaison can provide you with other options.

*Can we arrest or detain someone until the police arrive?*

Civilians who try to detain or arrest criminals risk injury, death, and lawsuits. Law Enforcement officers are paid and trained to make arrests, and even they are subject to death and lawsuits. Patrol members should stay a safe distance away from a situation and wait for the police to arrive and determine if arrests need to be made. If you do find yourself involved in a lawsuit, it's possible that you may find yourself without legal protection. Citizen Patrollers are only trained to observe and report. They are not trained in defensive tactics or arrest procedures.

*What if we see family violence?*

Many people who witness a disturbance between romantic partners or family members feel like the situation is private and should be ignored. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you see violence, or a situation that could soon become violent, no matter the relationship between the people involved, 911 should be called. While the people involved in family violence may feel embarrassed if attention is called to their situation, violence should never be ignored. Ignoring violence hurts the whole community.

*Can we distribute brochures or flyers while we patrol?*

This depends on the mission of your patrol. If you are trying to inconspicuously watch for car break-ins, it would obviously not be advantageous to distribute flyers. You are encouraged to distribute "I Am Aware" theft warning flyers. Ask your team leader or the Liaison Deputy for a stack of these flyers. The flyers may be stored in the Citizen Patrol car or the Corbett Safety Action Team (SAT) office. You may also distribute Citizen Patrol informational flyers for recruiting potential members.