

Citizen Patrol Wants You!



How does it work?

Avondale Estates' program is modeled after chapters around the country that have successfully lowered crime rates. Every day, including weekends and evenings, pairs of volunteers serve two-hour shifts driving a reconditioned police car marked "Citizen Patrol." We patrol at slow speeds throughout our residential and business neighborhoods, looking for suspicious activity, behavior, or situations. We pay particular attention to public areas such as parks, schools, and pools. Should an emergency arise, we use a cell phone to dial 911 and remain at a safe distance inside the patrol car, even after help has arrived.

What training do volunteers receive?

This year, the Avondale Estates Police Department will offer a one-day workshop for residents interested in joining the Citizen Patrol program. Workshop training will acquaint you with all aspects of the program, from rules and responsibilities to operation of the patrol car itself. Follow-up training includes an orientation patrol with a field training officer to put what you learn into practice, plus three subsequent shifts with a seasoned patroller. We then ask for a commitment of three shifts per month per volunteer.

Are volunteers armed?

Our only weapons are our cell phones, our eyes, and our ears. That's it.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any resident of Avondale Estates who is 21 years of age or older and who has completed an application (which includes passing a background check) is invited to attend the Patrol workshop.

What is Citizen Patrol?

Avondale Estates' Citizen Patrol program is a mobile neighborhood watch made up of citizen-volunteers who serve as extra eyes and ears for the Avondale Estates Police Department. Our objective is to recognize and report suspicious behavior or activity and to deter crime by providing a highly visible presence in the neighborhood.

How can I get involved?

For more information about the upcoming Saturday, May 18, 2018, Citizen Patrol workshop, please email Matt Miller at citizenpatrol@att.net. To apply, stop by City Hall for an application, which is due by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 10.

