



Neighborhood Watch - A Team Effort

When your friends and neighbors from other areas in Skokie ask about those signs with the masked burglar at the end of your block, do you know what to tell them about Skokie Police Department's Neighborhood Watch program? Certainly they will have questions about the roles and responsibilities of a Block Captain and as a block member of a Neighborhood Watch group. Do you know what to tell them to get started?

The following is a primer on some key talking points about Skokie's Neighborhood Watch program and how they too can become involved.

First: Get to know your neighborhood and what crime is occurring nearby. Go to our Neighborhood Watch Coverage Map on the home page at www.skokiepolice.org and find your neighborhood. The Neighborhood Watch map allows you to search what blocks are included in Neighborhood Watch. Currently, Skokie's Neighborhood Watch program encompasses 260 blocks with membership of 5,750 individual addresses. That's almost 9% of the total population of Skokie!

While at skokiepolice.org, navigate to the reports tab at the top of the screen. From there you can browse the Official Public Safety Bulletin tab for a snapshot of the criminal activity that Skokie Officers are taking reports on. Don't forget to take a look at the Recent Arrests tab as well.

Second: If you do not see your block on the Neighborhood Watch Coverage Map, talk with neighbors to see who has email and ask them if they would be interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch interactive group with you. Once you have a group together, encourage each other to follow the Skokie Police Department's Facebook page @skokiepolice for all of our current updates and press releases.

Third: Set up an email group list of all the people who have agreed to join your Neighborhood Watch and share the group with everyone so each household may send an alert at any time. You may engage any social media platform you choose to facilitate the sharing of information amongst your members, but currently the Skokie Police Department only uses Facebook and Twitter for Official media releases.

Now the training begins! You as coordinator of your Skokie Neighborhood Watch group need to teach your new neighbors what to look for and how to report suspicious or criminal activity to the Skokie Police Department.

What is Suspicious Activity?

- Someone running from a car or home.
- Someone screaming.
- Someone going door to door in the neighborhood or looking into windows and/or parked cars.
- A person(s) who appears to have no purpose wandering through your neighborhood.
- Breaking glass or the sound of a door being kicked.
- Vehicles moving slowly at night without lights.
- Someone removing property from a closed business or unoccupied home.
- A stranger in a car who stops to talk with a child.

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Did you know? - Quick Facts

- The average age of a victim of a ruse burglary is 81 years-old.
- Door-to-door solicitors are not permitted to knock on your door or ring your bell anytime after 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Solicitation is not allowed at any time on a Sunday or on a state or national holiday. If you are contacted by solicitors outside of normal permitted hours, please contact the police.
- If a person that you did not call represents themselves to be an employee of a public utility company or with the Village of Skokie and tells you they need to enter the residence to

perform work/ shut off service/ inspect a meter etc., there is a good chance they may be a ruse burglar. Aside from rare instances, utilities such as water, gas, and electric can almost always be shutoff outside the residence. If someone knocks at your door requesting entry due to a utility "emergency," do not let them in. Call 9-1-1 immediately, then notify your neighbors.

See tips on pages two and three for more information on how to avoid scams and burglaries.



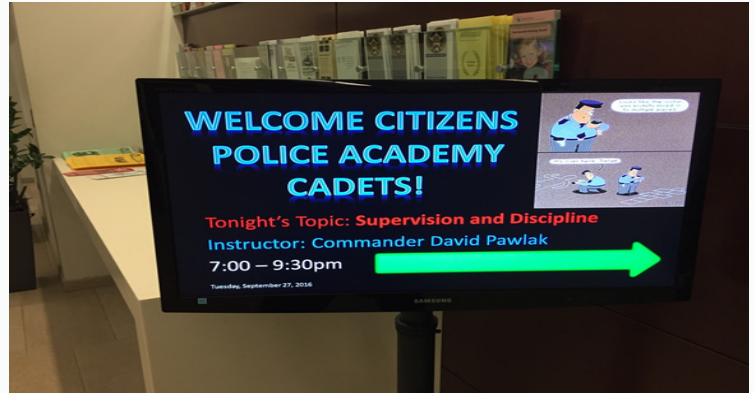
Citizens Police Academy Fall 2019

Skokie Police Department 2019 Citizens Police Academy

- Want to learn what happens behind the scenes?
- Starting in September 2019, the 12-week academy will held at the Skokie Police Department on Tuesday nights from 7-10pm.
- The classes are free and open to adults 18 and older who work or live in Skokie.

The course covers a wide variety of topics including the K9 Unit, Criminal and Civil Law, Tactical Intervention Unit, Evidence, 9-1-1 Telecommunications, Use of Force, Investigations and more!

For more information or to enroll in the academy, contact Officer Eric Swaback from the Skokie Crime Prevention and Community Relations Unit



Contact Officer Eric Swaback at (847) 982-5919 or eric.swaback@skokie.org to sign up today!

Bicycling in Skokie

Jumping on your bicycle in the Spring is almost a rite of passage for residents of northern Illinois. Whether you plan to ride on the McCormick Sculpture Park Path and enjoy the artwork, or ride the Rails and trails Corridor that takes you through the center of Skokie and beyond, your first priority is to stay safe.

Roadway Safety

- When riding your bicycle on Illinois roadways, you must obey the same traffic laws, signs and signals that apply to motorists.
- Bicyclists must ride in the same direction as other traffic. Riding in the opposite direction of traffic is both dangerous and against the law.
- Look left, then right, then left again before crossing a street.
- Avoid busy streets when possible.
- Give pedestrians the right of way.
- Alert pedestrians to passing by announcing in a loud voice, or by using horn/bell.
- Motorists are required to allow at least three feet of space between them and bicyclist when passing.
- Cross railroad tracks at a 90-degree angle.
- Be ready for parked cars that may open doors in your path.
- Never ride between cars.
- Be seen. Wear bright, reflective, contrasting clothing.
- Stay alert for animals that may cross your path or chase you.
- Securely fasten any items you are carrying.
- Use a lock when leaving your bike in a rack.



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT!!

Skokie Bicycle Helmet Ordinance

Skokie Village Code states: Every person under the age of 16 years shall wear a protective helmet that meets the standards promulgated by either the American National Standards Institute, the American Society for Testing or the Snell Memorial Foundation, whenever that person is upon a public highway, sidewalk, bicycle path or other public right-of-way within the corporate limits of the Village and is riding or being carried on any bicycle or any carrier attached to or pulled by a bicycle.

Adults and young adults over 16 years of age are strongly encouraged to wear helmets also. Bicycle helmets can reduce head injuries by 85 percent. Select a helmet that fits snugly and fits atop the head. For children, use extra padding that comes with the helmet to ensure a proper fit. This padding can be removed as the child's head grows.





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- Offers of merchandise available for a price that does not match the value of the item.
- Hand to hand transactions from cars or on the street.

How to Report Suspicious Activity or Crimes in Progress

- Know when and how to call the Skokie Police Department. In progress crime, 9-1-1. Questions or non-emergency reports, call (847) 982-5922.
- Describe the event briefly and answer questions about what, where, when and how it happened and any suspects or vehicles.
- State if crime is in progress or if it has just occurred.
- Describe suspect(s) sex, race, height, weight, hair color/length, clothing, accent, facial hair or other distinguishing characteristics.
- If a vehicle is involved, what is the color, make, model, year, license number, decals, dents, etc. and what direction did it take from the scene.
- Give your name and phone number.
- If you wish to remain anonymous,

you can contact the Skokie Police Department through or Crime Tip hotline at (847) 933-TIPS, or through our app. You can find our app, Tips411, by searching your app store for "Skokie Tips."

Fourth: You're almost done! You have studied the Public Safety Bulletin at skokiepolice.org to know what's happening



in Skokie, identified your neighbors and formed an email or social media group to exchange information, taught your neighbors about suspicious activity and how to call the Skokie Police...now what? Encourage your group to share information about suspicious activities or issues, especially when they have called the Skokie Police for assistance. Keep

each other informed. A great example is a suspicious solicitor who comes to your door. Something is not right; the person looks past you into your home, offers only a poor reason why they came to your door. Call the Skokie Police Department to report the suspicious person and email your neighbors about what just happened and who to watch for and why you were concerned. It is also important to have the best phone number available for each person in your group in case you have urgent information to share.

Do's and Don'ts: Do share information about your neighborhood, but not gossip about a neighbor. Do encourage others to join, but don't force anyone who may be uncomfortable. Do share website information from skokiepolice.org and join the Skokie Police Facebook account as a fan, but don't spam!

For further information about starting a Neighborhood Watch program in your neighborhood, please contact Crime Prevention/ Community Relations Officer Rich Wilken, at (847) 982-5922 or at Richard.wilken@skokiepolice.org.

Skokie's Alley Lighting Program

To provide an additional option for alley lighting, the Village manages a cooperative Alley Lighting Program through which lights can be placed in alleys at a low cost to the property owner.

For an annual charge of \$95 paid directly to the Village, the Village of Skokie will arrange to install, maintain, and provide electricity for a street lamp in the alley behind a resident's home or business establishment. Groups of property owners can get together to request a light, and the Village is able to divide the cost on the water bills of all property owners involved. Contact the Engineering Division for more details 847-933-8231.

Alley Lighting Application

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Are you requesting on behalf of a group of property owners? Y N

Description of location for the alley light: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Please mail the completed alley lighting application with attention to the Engineering Division at 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60077. Applications can also be found online at <http://www.skokie.org/FormsPermitsApplications.cfm>.



The Skokie Police Department reminds residents of how to avoid becoming the next burglary victim:

- Always lock the windows and doors of your home and automobile.
- Report suspicious activity. Call the police if you see anyone loitering around a home or vehicle, pulling on door handles, or otherwise acting suspiciously.
- Take your keys with you! Never leave your keys or key fob (including spares) unattended inside the vehicle, especially not in the ignition. House keys should not be in plain view.
- Be mindful of where you park. Choose well-lit, visible, and busy areas. Make sure your home has exterior lighting.
- Ready any alarm system in your home or anti-theft device on your vehicle.
- Mark valuables with your driver's license number or some other

identifying info so if recovered, they can be returned to you.

- Make a police report; if you are the victim of a burglary, even if nothing or only insignificant items were taken. This will help us track crime patterns and apprehend the persons responsible.

Residential Security Surveys cover home safety, house and business alarms, locking systems, lighting and parking issues. An officer will check a number of security factors and also will make recommendations about the interior of the building, such as ways to improve security of doors and windows. If you are interested in scheduling a Security Survey, please contact the Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit at 847/982-5919 or 847/982-5922.

More information on all Crime Prevention Programs that the Skokie Police Department offers can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2fpw3W5>

Save These Dates!

- The Skokie Police Department is raising money for the Special Olympics of Illinois through the Dunkin Cop on a Rooftop event. Come out and see your Skokie Officers on Friday, May 17, 2019 from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Touhy Ave. Dunkin.
- The Skokie Festival of Cultures takes place on May 18 and 19, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Oakton Park, 4701 Oakton Street. Stop by the Skokie Police Department booth and say hello. We look forward to seeing you!
- National Night out takes place Tuesday, August 6, 2019 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Oakton Park. Games, music, food and more!
- Downtown Skokie's Backlot Bash weekend, August 23 through 25, 2019. Live music, carnival rides, 5k, classic car show and more!
- The 2019 Citizens Police Academy starts on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.



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is published four times a year.

Generously printed by the fine firemen and women of Fire Station 18. Thanks for helping keep Skokie safe!



@skokiepolice

7300 Niles Center Road • Skokie IL 60077
 Main/Non-emergency: 847/982-5900
 Officer Richard Wilken/Crime Prevention Unit
 Direct: 847/982-5922 • Richard.Wilken@skokie.org
 24-Hr. Crime Tip Hot-line: 847/933-TIPS
 Text-A-Tip: Text "Skokie" and your tip to 847411
 Email: crime.prevention@skokie.org

Emergency: 9-1-1

www.skokiepolice.org

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