

# How do I start a Neighborhood Watch group?



Neighborhood Watch (NW) is a group of people living in the same geographic area who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together with local law enforcement to reduce crime and improve their quality of life. Many people would like to belong to an active NW group, but simply don't know how to go about it. It takes only one person to make it happen, and YOU can be that person!

To be considered an active NW group, a roster must be prepared which contains the contact information of the neighbors who have agreed to participate. This NW roster is *essential* for a watch group to be effective. Each member of the group is provided a copy of the roster. Knowing when and how to contact neighbors and law enforcement is the key to a successful watch program. The roster is developed by the NW Coordinator and a copy is distributed to each member. This enables participants to contact one another about suspicious activity or the NW Coordinator to communicate with the entire watch group. Once the roster is prepared, a copy is given to the Sacramento Sheriff's Department Crime Prevention Specialist and the group is then considered "official."

Step	What To Do
1	Contact Crime Prevention Specialist Alexsis Yeager at 875-5852 or <a href="mailto:ayeager@sacsheriff.com">ayeager@sacsheriff.com</a> and let her know that you are interested in learning how to form a NW group.
2	Contact your neighbors to let them know that you are interested in starting a NW group and would like to share information with them (see "Sample Meeting Notice"). If you would like someone to attend your first meeting and provide information specific to Rosemont, contact Officer Yeager as well as the Rosemont Community Association at <a href="mailto:nw@rosemontca.org">nw@rosemontca.org</a> to coordinate a date.
3	At the meeting, information is shared with your neighbors about what NW is and the importance of each group member having a roster so they can communicate with one another. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine which neighbors would like to join.</li> <li>• Provide a copy of the <i>Community Policing Resource Directory</i> to those who will join. This may be found on the Rosemont Community Association website at <a href="http://www.rosemontca.org/nwgroup.html">http://www.rosemontca.org/nwgroup.html</a>.</li> <li>• Gather the contact information for each group member (see sample "Developing a NW Group Roster" form).</li> </ul>
4	Prepare the group roster. The roster will contain names, addresses and phone numbers to enable neighbors to communicate with one another. (Email addresses are not included on the printed roster but are maintained by the NW Coordinator.)  Provide a copy of the roster to the SSD Crime Prevention Specialist Alexsis Yeager at <a href="mailto:ayeager@sacsheriff.com">ayeager@sacsheriff.com</a> . Once a watch group is registered with the Sheriff's Department the group is considered "official" and the group may purchase a customized Rosemont NW street sign, if desired. (Like the sign pictured above.)

Also:

- Don't feel overwhelmed by the process of forming a new group. Starting a NW group is fairly easy and once a new watch group is established, the time invested by the NW Coordinator, can be as much or as little as he/she wants it to be. The important thing is to get the group started!
- Plan to attend a Rosemont Community Association Board meeting. These are open to all community residents and are held on the first Thursday of the month, from 7 – 9 pm at Atonement Lutheran Church, 9242 Kiefer Blvd.
- Visit the Rosemont Community Association website at <http://www.rosemontca.org>. Click on "Get the Newsletter" to get updates delivered to your inbox!"

Information is power and the more we, as residents, stay informed and involved, the stronger we will become as a community. Our Rosemont community is unique in that we have a powerful means of communication through the Rosemont Community Association e-newsletter, etc. It's critical that as many community residents as possible stay in the "loop of communication." (Set your computer settings to ensure that the RCA emails do not end up in your Spam folder.)