



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 "official" NW group, a roster must be prepared which contains the contact information of the neighbors who have agreed to participate. The NW roster is *essential* for a watch group to be effective. Each member is provided a copy of the roster. Knowing how and when 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 County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Crime Prevention Officer (indicated below) and the group is then considered "official."

Step	What To Do
1	<p>Contact the SSD Crime Prevention Officer, Kitman Likes, at 875-5852 or klikes@sacsheriff.com and let him know that you are interested in learning how to form a NW group AND visit: https://www.ranchocordovapd.com/get-involved/neighborhood-watch (Note: This site indicates "Rancho Cordova Police Department" but may be utilized by Rosemont residents.)</p>
2	<p>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 attached sample meeting notice). If you would like someone to attend your first meeting and provide information specific to Rosemont, contact the SCSO Crime Prevention Officer as well as the Rosemont Community Association (RCA) at info@rosemontca.org to coordinate a date.</p>
3	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine which neighbors would like to join. • Provide a copy of the <i>Rosemont Community Policing Resource Directory</i> to those who will join. This may be found on the RCA website at http://rosemontca.org/programs/neighborhood-watch
4	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather the contact information for each group member and prepare the roster. (See attached sample "Developing a NW Group Roster" form). • Provide a copy of the roster to each watch group member. • Upload a copy of the roster to the SCSO Crime Prevention Officer through the Rancho Cordova Sheriff's Neighborhood Watch Program at https://www.ranchocordovapd.com/get-involved/neighborhood-watch Once a watch group is registered with the Sheriff's Office, the group is considered "official" and you may obtain a customized* Rosemont NW Street sign (pictured above), if desired. <p>(*In 2018 and 2019, grant-subsidized street signs became available to newly-formed watch groups, for FREE. New groups may obtain One (1) free grant-subsidized sign until stock is depleted.</p> <p>(Grant awards were issued by SMUD Shine and Sacramento County.)</p>

Also:

- Don't feel overwhelmed by the process of forming a new group. Starting a NW group is fairly easy and once a watch group is established, the time invested by the NW Coordinator, can be as much or as little as he/she can devote. What's most important is to get the group started and keep the roster updated!
- The SCSO East Area Division hosts quarterly "All-Communities" Neighborhood Watch meetings at the Sheriff's Department East Area Station - 2897 Kilgore Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. These meetings are a great way to learn about various topics related to crime and have **face-to-face time with your neighborhood deputies and Problem Oriented Policing (P.O.P.) officers.**
- Plan to attend an RCA Board meeting. Meetings are currently being held via Zoom. For more meeting details, visit the RCA social media pages and/or updates on our website at <http://rosemontca.org> (Click on Programs and then Neighborhood Watch).

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