



Cellular on Patrol (COP) Program

Program Overview

Presented by:

*Sheriff's Community Oriented Response &
Education Unit
(S.C.O.R.E.)*

&

Bexar County Cellular on Patrol Board of Directors





Introduction

- The Bexar County Sheriff's Office has long supported the notion that **involved residents** are the most effective crime fighters by **reporting suspicious activity as it occurs.**
- This Program allows residents to become more actively involved as partners in crime prevention and essentially be the “eyes and ears” of the Bexar County Sheriff's Office

“Community policing is a community partnership”





Cellular on Patrol Mission Statement



- The Cellular on Patrol program enhances the individual & collective safety & general welfare of all residents in Bexar County by assisting the Sheriff's Office in deterring crime.
- The primary method used to deter crime will be to provide high-visibility citizen patrols within participating communities.



History

The BCSO & County of Bexar created the current C.O.P. Program in 1997

Intended to promote closer cooperation between residents & the agencies that serve them

Supported by S.C.O.R.E. (Sheriff's Community Oriented Response & Education) Unit

Program "refresh" occurred April 2022

Board of Directors formed to oversee county-wide program in March 2023





The Basics

- All unpaid members
- “Neighborhood watch-like” program, but with jurisdiction throughout Bexar County
- Supported by Bexar County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) & Bexar County Cellular on Patrol Board of Directors
- 3-hour mandatory training & certification by BCSO
- Must apply & clear background check
- Must sign & abide by Code of Conduct
- COP ID card issued & is worn at all time when out on patrol
- Currently 103 communities throughout Bexar County have a COP Program
- Total 462 COP Team Members throughout those communities.



Purpose

- COP Members are “eyes & ears” of BCSO - nonconfrontational
- Not intended to replace Deputy Sheriffs
- Supplement & partner with BCSO
- Promote closer cooperation between residents & BCSO
- Trained to recognize suspicious activity which may lead to crime in the neighborhood
- Call in suspicious activity to BCSO
- Act as witness
- Primary deterrence method is conducting high visibility patrols within neighborhood
 - Decals on vehicles
 - Uniforms
 - Some team members have emergency lights on vehicles for easy ID as COP member



Benefits

- Community driven program provides residents a stronger sense of pride & ownership in neighborhood
- Unites neighbors together for common goal – SAFETY!
- Program members & neighbors help make neighborhood safer by adopting more observant & active attitude – reducing fear of crime in the community
- Builds base for correcting neighborhood challenges by identifying specific issues & needs
- Creates active neighborhood partnership with BCSO to deter crime & focus on positive civic activities
- Creates positive relationships with other communities who have COP Program





Accomplishments



- Decrease in most crimes – burglaries, trespassing, vandalism, graffiti, etc.
- Increased community safety awareness
 - More outside porch lights on at night throughout participating communities
 - Fewer garage doors left open
 - Less valuables left in vehicles/yards
 - Neighbors proactively reaching out to COP Members
- Program evolution to special operations – directed patrols for specific purposes
- Increased BCSO presence in community
 - Beginning of patrol, COP member calls BCSO to let them know we're out. Many times, the Deputy on duty will do a drive by, say hello & patrol w/ COP member
- Enhanced relationship with BCSO
- Installation of COP Program street signs to increase awareness
- Implementation of #9PMROUTINE campaign

#9PM ROUTINE
At 9pm Each Evening, do a Security Check & Verify

- LOCK IT**
ensure your car doors, residence doors, and windows are locked
- TURN ON**
keep exterior residence lights on or use motion detecting lights
- HIDE IT**
remove valuables from your vehicle
- CLOSE IT**
make certain your garage door(s) are closed

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
Residents who witness any suspicious activity should contact
Bexar County Sheriff's Office
(210) 335-6000
Or for emergencies
9-1-1



Other Activities

- Community Action Patrols throughout Bexar County
- Teams supporting other communities/Teams – membership drives, directed patrols, etc.
- “Coffee with C.O.P.s” program
- Development of relationships between COP communities & their area, local businesses
- Fund raising through local business donations, etc.





Hours on Patrol

- COP Team monthly patrol hours range anywhere from 20 – 100+ hours
- Depends on size of Team & availability of Team members

Modes of Patrol



Walking



By Vehicle



By Golf Cart



Running



By Bicycle



Posted Up in Vehicle





Next Steps



Volunteers Committed to our Communities

WHAT IT IS

The Cellular on Patrol program is to enhance the individual and collective safety and general welfare of all people in Bexar County by assisting the Sheriff's Office in deterring crime. The primary method used to deter crime will be to provide high visibility patrols within the communities.

CELLULAR ON PATROL

- Crime Reduction
- A greater sense of security, responsibility, and control, better quality of life
- Build community pride and unity
- Trained and prepared to help ourselves and others in our community
- Trained volunteers can request a ride along opportunity with a Patrol Deputy

 SCORE@BEXAR.ORG

- When homeowners want added security, rather than spending money on a security company (potentially a \$1/2 million+ annual investment) suggest starting a COP Program
- Provide handouts like this presentation
- Have them reach out to score@bexar.org to get one organized.



Deputy Benjamin Hernandez
benjamin.Hernandez@bexar.org

Deputy Adam Turbeville
aturbeville@bexar.org

Bexar County Cellular on Patrol Board of
Directors:

Albert Castle, President
president@bccoptx.org

Stanley Smith, 1st VP
1stvicepres@bccoptx.org

Bill Nupp, 2nd VP
communications@bccoptx.org

Cliff McCarter, Secretary
secretary@bccoptx.org

Peter Lougee, Executive Director
execdirector@bccoptx.org



Contacts





Thank You!





Appendix



Bexar County Cellular on Patrol Application



The Bexar County Sheriff's Office invites you to become a volunteer member of the neighborhood program Cellular on Patrol (COP). The program will consist of responsible citizens patrolling with cellular phones that can be used for emergency assistance. This program can only be successful with your help. To become involved with COP you must attend a training session of four (4) hours. Affiliation with a Neighborhood Association (HOA) is not required.

[]		[]		[]	
Last name		First name		MI	
[]		[]		[]	
Address		City		State	
[]		[]		[]	
Home phone		Cell phone		Zip	
[]		[]		[]	
DOB		Sex		Race	
[]		[]		[]	
DL #		State		[]	
[]		[]		[]	
Email:		[]			
Neighborhood:		[]			

In case of an emergency, please contact the following individual:

Name and relationship		[]		Phone#	
[]		[]		[]	
Address		City		State	
[]		[]		[]	
[]		[]		Zip	

Have you ever been arrested? Yes No If yes, date of offense: []

List offense: [] Location of Offense: []

Disposition: []

Are you living in unincorporated Bexar County? Yes No

Your acceptance into the Bexar County COP Program depends on the following factors:

1. All applicants are subject to a Criminal History Check
2. Must complete the four-hour training course.
3. You agree not to hold the Bexar County Sheriff's Office liable for any damages or injuries sustained while participating in the COP program.
4. Must be a legal resident of Bexar County.

[]

Signature

Date Signed

Please email your completed application to SCORE@bexar.org with the Subject: Completed COP Application Form



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QUALIFICATIONS

- Any Bexar County resident who is at least 18 years of age may apply to become a volunteer.
- Pass/Clear a Criminal History check.
- Must complete the training course.
- Upon completion of the course, trained volunteers will be issued a C.O.P. Photo ID card with lanyard to display while on patrol.

JOIN TODAY!

Bexar County Sheriff's Office
Headquarters
207 N. Comal
San Antonio, TX, 78207

SCORE@BEXAR.ORG



SHERIFF JAVIER SALAZAR



Bexar County Sheriff's Office



@BEXARCOSHERIFF

BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



CELLULAR ON PATROL



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IMPACTS

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TRAINING

The purpose of the COP program is to prepare COP members to be the "EYES and EARS" of the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, and to promote closer cooperation between residents and the BCSO. The training program consists of 4 hours of classroom training and the opportunity for 8 hours of ride-along with an experienced district patrol deputy in a patrol vehicle

During the classroom training sessions, volunteers are trained by the Bexar County Deputy Sheriffs to recognize suspicious activities that may lead to crime in their neighborhoods.



#9PM

ROUTINE

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remove valuables from your vehicle



CLOSE IT

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