



## **Neighborhood Watch Association - FAQ'S**

### **Q: What is the National Sheriffs' Association role in the USAOnWatch/Neighborhood Watch program?**

A: The National Sheriffs' Association is the founder of the [UOW/Neighborhood Watch program](#), serves as the primary contact, and oversees the program. We invite you to learn more about the [National Sheriffs' Association](#) online.

### **Q: Is the National Sheriffs' Association a government agency?**

A: No. The National Sheriffs' Association is non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among those in the criminal justice field.

### **Q: How do I join a Neighborhood Watch in my community?**

A: First, [search the National NW](#) database to find your local law enforcement agency, and call to find out if there is a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood. If there is a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood, simply attend a meeting and sign up to volunteer. If there is not Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood, talk with your local law enforcement agency about starting a new NW.

### **Q: Who can participate in a Neighborhood Watch?**

A: Members of local communities and representatives from businesses, government agencies, and a variety of organizations can participate in a [Neighborhood Watch](#) once they have established a partnership with their local law enforcement agency.

### **Q: Who Trains Neighborhood watch volunteers?**

A: A crime prevention officer assigned by your local police department or sheriff's office supplies initial training of volunteers. In addition, you will find all of the materials you will need on starting and operating a Neighborhood Watch on this website.

### **Q: What is the difference between Citizens Patrol and Neighborhood Watch?**

A: Citizens Patrol is mainly groups of volunteers who donate their time to work with law enforcement departments. In some cases, Citizens Patrol is directly started and funded by law enforcement agency for the specific purpose of assisting that agency with basic functions such as providing administrative help or assisting with patrolling areas with non violent crimes. Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods to local law enforcement. . Neighborhood Watch Groups are more than the eyes and ears for police. The defining difference between Neighborhood Watch and Citizen Patrol is their involvement with law enforcement. While both assist law enforcement their roles are different. Neighborhood Watch reports suspicious activity in their neighborhood to law enforcement. Citizen Patrol works closely with law enforcement to assist their efforts.

### **Q: Do I have to wear one of those silly T-Shirts and patrol my neighborhood with a flashlight?**

A: No, we communicate through email, and telephone trees.

### **Q: How many residents are required to be at meetings?**

A: We would like to see as many as possible at the meetings. By meeting your neighbors you will learn what is normal and what is not in the neighborhood, and be able to identify suspicious activity quickly.

## **CONTACTS**

Osceola County Sheriff's Office:	Dial 911 or non-emergency 407 348 2222
Bella Trae Master Association Manager:	407 396 9820 ext 101
Bella Trea Neighborhood Watch Coordinator:	Gregg Rainone, 407 619 5511 <a href="mailto:grainone@aol.com">grainone@aol.com</a>
Osceola County Animal Control:	407 343 7101