

Community Focus Statement G: Improve public safety within the Lake Arrowhead communities.

Action Statement G.2: Encourage community members to participate in the Citizens on Patrol Program coordinated through the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.



Benchmarks: In partnership with the County Sheriff’s Department and community groups, regular meetings and neighborhood walks are hosted to discuss safety concerns and training topics to help make the Lake Arrowhead communities safer.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$1,000–\$2,000



San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Citizens on Patrol volunteers. Photo source: San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department

A Citizens Patrol is an approach that involves building closer ties between the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and residents and businesses in the Lake Arrowhead communities, and seeks to be proactive about preventing crime. Volunteers give law enforcement the opportunity to reduce crime and increase law enforcement services. Citizens Patrol volunteers can identify conditions that contribute to crime and other issues specific to the Lake Arrowhead communities. They also serve as a liaison between

the community and the County Sheriff’s Department, keeping open lines of communication between law enforcement and members of the Lake Arrowhead communities.

Citizen Volunteer Units are utilized to assist the Sheriff’s Department in meeting law enforcement objectives during the normal course of operation, as well as in times of disaster and emergency. Citizens Patrol volunteers must meet requirements set by the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, attend the Citizen Volunteer Academy training course, maintain first aid and CPR certification, attend monthly business and training meetings, and donate a minimum of eight hours of time per month. Citizens Patrol members do not take law enforcement action, carry weapons, or make arrests, but instead they report suspicious activity to the local police station.

Residents of the Lake Arrowhead communities should be encouraged to join the existing program, so there is a larger Citizens Patrol presence. Existing members of the Citizens Patrol should be visible in the community and make people aware that such a group exists to help keep the communities safe. The program can also be advertised to existing community organizations or neighborhood groups to encourage new participants who meet the qualifications to go through Citizens Patrol training. The Citizens Patrol could partner with neighborhood watch groups and other safety workshops hosted in the communities. As the Citizens Patrol group grows, there is

opportunity to create more specialized volunteer units to cater to a specific need in the Lake Arrowhead communities.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Publicize the existing Citizens Patrol group to neighborhood groups, such as homeowners associations, neighborhood watch, or faith-based institutions.	Champion with existing Citizens Patrol volunteers	Year 1 – 3	San Bernardino County Sheriff Department http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/Divisions/VolunteerForces/CitizenonPatrol.aspx
2. Encourage residents of the Lake Arrowhead communities who meet the requirements to go through Citizens Patrol training and become active volunteers.	Citizens Patrol volunteers, community groups	Year 1 – 3	US Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, The Collaboration Toolkit for Community Organizations Effective Strategies to Partner with Law Enforcement, 2010, revised 2014
3. Increase visibility of the Citizens Patrol group by holding quarterly workshops, having a presence at community events, and maintaining a Facebook page/email newsletter.	Citizens Patrol volunteers with support of San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department	Year 1 – 3	
4. Conduct annual recruitment efforts to provide information and get more volunteers involved in the Citizens Patrol group.	Citizens Patrol volunteers	Annually	
5. Reach out to Citizens Patrol volunteers to evaluate the program and identify potential improvements.	Citizens Patrol volunteers	Annually	