

Volunteers On Patrol

VOP Program Mission:

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Civilian Volunteers are dedicated to providing excellent service through relationships that build trust, create a safe environment, and enhance the quality of life in our communities within a "Tradition of Service".

VOP Program Principles:

To be proud representatives of the community by being highly visible while on patrol. The primary objectives for the members shall be to prevent crime by mere presence, or identify public hazards. Members shall also act as the eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Department by identifying suspicious activities, crimes in progress, or dangerous circumstances. The members shall not take action themselves, but shall notify the proper authorities for handling.

The Volunteers On Patrol members accept their mission to serve the community with the enduring belief that in so doing, they will maintain the high level of safety, quality of life, and the beauty of the community that everyone is entitled.

VOP Program Overview:

As outlined in the Sheriff's Mission and Core Values Statement, as well as the Department's Policy, the goal of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is to serve the residents of Los Angeles County in the most professional, effective, courteous, and progressive manner possible. This will be accomplished while maintaining a reputation of being an innovative and progressive law enforcement agency that is sincerely concerned about the citizens it serves.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has long recognized the vast resources of experience and skills possessed by its' county residents and the surrounding communities. The purpose of volunteers is to tap into these skills to help the Sheriff's Department achieve its' goals in an effective and cost-efficient manner. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department views this as a means to assist those that reside in Los Angeles County by providing a service to their community.

Because the members of the Volunteer Program become additional eyes and ears for the Sheriff's Department, as well as representatives of City and County administration, it is imperative that they maintain an image of professionalism at all times which parallels the professionalism of the Department. Volunteer's appearance, demeanor, and professionalism must never be compromised while serving in this Program. Each volunteer has been handpicked with the highest confidence in their capabilities.

Volunteer members are, in fact, Sheriff's Department Civilian Volunteers. Therefore, the existing Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Civilian Volunteer Regulations and Guidelines shall be followed. Volunteers shall be aware that it is a privilege to be a civilian volunteer, not a right, and they serve at the discretion of the Sheriff.

INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS:

Must be 18 years of age or older.

Must live or work within the City of Malibu.

Must not have been convicted of a felony crime.

Must not have been convicted of certain misdemeanor crimes.

Must have a valid California driver's license (if licensed out of state, must obtain CDL within 10 days and prior to appointment.

Must be emotionally stable.

Must not be addicted to any legal or illegal substance including alcohol, or prescription drugs.

Must not have any physical disability that would create a danger to the volunteer or others while completing tasks. Disabled volunteers could be utilized in specified and designated duties other than patrol.

Provide a completed and signed application form.

Subject to background or criminal history record check.

Must be Live Scan fingerprinted prior to acceptance. Appointments made through Sheriff's Department Volunteer Coordinator.

Must contribute a minimum of sixteen (16) hours per month.

Attend scheduled, mandatory or emergency meetings and training.

VOP RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES:

Volunteers On Patrol are community-spirited citizens of the Malibu community who provide a minimum of 16 hours of their time per month to assist the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department performing non-hazardous patrol duties. Its participants are made up of working people, retirees, and men and women of all races with varied backgrounds.

Volunteers On Patrol can be identified by their white uniform shirt, navy blue trousers and gold on blue shoulder patch. Volunteers' patrol in white vehicles identified as "Volunteers On Patrol" and bear the Sheriff's Department and City of Malibu emblem.

The Volunteers On Patrol have various responsibilities, primarily non-hazardous duties, which have traditionally been performed by patrol deputies. This program; therefore, allows patrol deputies to perform the more hazardous duties that they have been trained to do, thus helping the Department to better achieve its goal of serving the community.

Listed below are some examples of the duties that Volunteers On Patrol will be performing:

- Search for missing children
- Patrolling the community for criminal activity
- Patrolling the community for safety hazards
- Conducting school safety checks
- Conducting shopping mall checks
- Conducting residential vacation checks
- Conducting business checks
- Conducting park safety checks
- Patrolling for graffiti and property damage - Performing fire watch
- Conducting traffic control
- Performing non-hazardous directed patrol assignments
- Assisting disabled persons
- Assisting at Sobriety check points
- Fulfilling requests from city and county services
- Assisting L.A. Sheriff's Training Academy - Role-playing, when requested
- All volunteers work in teams of two in conspicuously identified vehicles supplied by the City of Malibu.