



Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

Sandusky Police Department

June 2022

The Sandusky Police Department has adopted the philosophy of upholding the U.S. Constitution together with our community through education, prevention, and enforcement. This philosophy, which each of our members has committed to, has led to an increased, positive level of involvement with the various citizens and organizations throughout our community. A few of the various programs and events we have either created or committed to include:



National Night Out/Touch-A-Truck

The Sandusky Police Department, as well as various local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and organizations attend the National Night Out. Here, each group provides various hand-outs and gifts for children in the community. Also present are various police cruisers, fire trucks, and other heavy equipment for the children to interact with. Police K-9 demonstrations/interactions, Project Lifesaver, food trucks, music, inflatables, etc. are also present for interaction and education for the members of the community. This event is one of the largest community events of the year that sees a positive community interaction with thousands of area residents, including children.

Coffee with a Cop

The Sandusky Police Department hosts Coffee with a Cop meetings at different local coffee shops. After advertising the location of the event, residents are invited to that particular business to interact with our law enforcement officers and administration. This is a chance for the citizens to ask questions about the various aspects of our profession, and also raise any concerns they may have. In addition to this, officers make an effort to meet for coffee and snacks several times a year with one of local organizations, Ability Works, who is responsible for assisting citizens with special needs.

Downtown Patrol/Bicycle Patrol

In the spring and summer months, officers with our Community Impact Unit often engage in bicycle patrol throughout the City, including downtown. Part of this also includes organized bicycling events where our officers bike with children throughout our community and ultimately end up getting ice cream with them at one of our local parlors.

These officers also engage in regular foot patrol throughout our downtown area. Here, they walk into the businesses and network with them, as well as engage with citizens they encounter. This is a positive interaction that has gained traction over the past several years and helps the local businesses feel safe and raise any concerns they may have. There



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are also a large number of events held downtown, including Bike Week, Movies by the Bay, and summer concerts by the pier that our officers attend as part of this foot patrol.

K-9 Program

Our department has two K-9 officers who are part of our patrol division. In addition to this, these officers often engage with different organizations in our community in order to educate them on the handling and purpose of the police K-9. Here, the adults and children can pet and take pictures with the K-9 and ask their handler questions. We also have gifts for the children, including stuffed animals and trading cards related to the likeness of our police canines that can be given out by the handlers to the citizens. They also will demonstrate how the canine apprehends a suspect by utilizing a trained professional wearing a bite suit.

Crime Prevention and Education Programs

Several of our officers with the Sandusky Police Department are trained in differing elements related to the prevention of certain crimes. These include active shooter, scams/frauds, drug, bicycle and pedestrian safety, etc. These officers will coordinate and often go speak with various groups and organizations, in order to educate them on the specific concern and hopefully prevent the crime from occurring. Additionally, our agency makes every effort possible to accommodate tours of the police department, as well as ride-along opportunities, to further educate the community on how we operate and what we engage with, on calls for service.

With this in mind, one would be hard-pressed to find an organization in our community that has not had an officer come speak with them in an effort to educate them on the best ways to prevent these crimes from occurring. Many of these organizations have had more than one visit by an officer, as continuing education is important as these crimes evolve.

Athletic Events

The combined efforts of our Community Impact Unit, School Resource Officers, and patrol division have led to a number of officers committing their weekends and weekday evenings to different athletic events. This includes flag football, wrestling, and others. Our officers will attend these events and coach the children, in addition to playing in the games as necessary.

Safety Town

Each year, the Sandusky Police Department commits to Safety Town, in conjunction with our fire department and recreations department. At this multi-day event, officers will educate and interaction with young children to teach them the importance of motor vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, and "stranger danger" safety. This occurs at a safe location with mock buildings/residences, streets, and safety lights for the children to utilize in the event.

Recreation Department Camps

In coordination with our recreation department, our agency attends and assists with three camps. These occur over spring break, fall break, and winter break during the school year. At these camps, a number of events are offered, to include dance programs, athletics, arts and crafts, and food. The officers participate in many of these events, which has led to a positive interaction with the children in our community. In addition to these camps, during the summer months, officers will also come to these parks and host Freeze Pop with a Cop and other ice cream socials with the kids.

OHGO

Bi-weekly, OHGO, which is a non-profit charity organization, visits several parks and hands out food and other necessities to citizens in our community that have need of them. Our agency works directly with them and is present at many of these pantries. The officers assist in handing out the food and carrying the items to their vehicles or homes



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nearby. OHGO also engages in several holiday-centered events, with the same goal in mind being to hand out items that correspond to the particular time of year. Officers from our Community Impact Unit also attend these events and assist.

Mentoring Programs

The Center for Cultural Awareness (CCA) offers an after-school program that is aimed towards providing children with additional education and activities. Officers from our Community Impact Unit regularly engage with these children. Furthermore, officers will also spend one-on-one mentoring time, typically on the weekends, with children who the CCA has identified would benefit from this mentorship.

Holiday Programs

Each year, there are a number of events around the various holidays. A few of the events are as follows. For Easter, officers assist with Easter Egg Hunts with children in a few of our area parks. For the Fourth of July, officers engaging in regular patrol make a concerted effort to stop and engage with adults and children, and also hand-out holiday-themed gifts. For Halloween, each year there are roughly half-a-dozen events centered around this holiday that our agency participates in, or created. For these events, officers hand out candy to the children. Our largest event is hosted at the Cedar Point Park, which sees several thousand kids/families attend. Candy is given to each of these families every year. Around Thanksgiving, our school resource officers identify families in the schools that have kids in need. The officers then take these families shopping and they are provided with gift cards to use for toys. For Christmas, there is a holiday tree lighting ceremony held downtown that our agency participates in.