



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

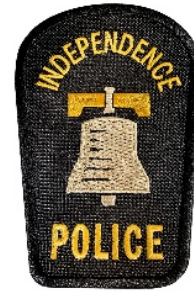
Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

## Independence Police Department

July 2023



The Independence Police Department is proud of its relationship with the community they serve, including businesses, schools, residents and all that travel through the "Heart of Cuyahoga County". Below are just a few of the programs offered:

### ***Safety Town***

Safety Town is a 2-week program that helps teach children who are about to enter kindergarten many safety lessons. The School Resource Officers along with a certified teacher cover various topics including car, bus, and bicycle safety, stranger danger, use of 911, interaction with police officers, fire safety, pool safety and electrical safety. Along with tours of the fire station, police station, community pool and riding the bus each student receives a bike helmet and a coupon for a free ice cream cone.



### ***Business Liaison***

An officer stops into businesses to try and build relationships, along with updating contact information in case of emergencies. This officer will also speak with employees about how to respond to active shooters and other safety issues.





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## ***Shop with a Cop***

Every year the officers along with other neighboring communities participate in shop with a cop program. Officers raise money with help from local businesses and take children in need shopping for Christmas. Along with shopping children get breakfast, a pizza lunch and most important of all get to ride in a police car and use the lights and sirens while travelling to and from Christmas shopping.



## ***Bike Patrol***

Officers with the Bike Unit engage in patrol throughout the city, especially the business district and park. These officers also help make patrolling parades, fireworks, and home day events easier.



***Free Bicycle Helmet Program:*** Independence Police offer free bicycle helmets to children of Independence residents. These helmets are for anyone under 18 years old and come in multiple sizes. Officers love to issue free ice cream cone coupons to children wearing these bicycle helmets.





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## ***Female Jogger Safety and Self Defense***

Officers speak with students and women about pre-jogging decisions, what to bring when jogging, suspicious people, basic self-defense to go along with some hands-on training.



## ***K-9 Demonstrations***

Independence has 2 police canines. K-9 Argo and K-9 Rambo. These dogs are trained in narcotics, tracking, building searches, article searches and apprehension. In addition, these officers and K-9's often engage with different organizations in our community to help educate them on the handling and purpose of the police K-9. During these demos adults and children can pet and take pictures with the K-9's.



## ***Halloween Trick or Treating***

On Halloween officers are out in the community passing out candy and ensuring the trick-or-treaters have a safe night. Officers also hand out blue glow bracelets for the city's little trick-or-treaters.





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## VIPS

Once a month this group of residents gather for a meeting and special guest speaker. During these monthly meeting they are instructed on various topics including domestic violence, task force officer duties, OVI, and human trafficking. Along with these monthly meetings members of our VIPS team assist officers at the city's home days, fireworks, parades and other community events.



## Social Media Updates

Independence Police use social media to alert the public of various events, traffic conditions, upcoming construction, tips to avoid scams and pictures of officers in action.



## Independence Schools

Independence Police has 2 dedicated uniformed officers assigned to cover 3 schools: one elementary school (grades pre-k 4), one middle school (grades 5-8) and one high school (grades 9-12). These officers are responsible for not only regular walk throughs, but also participate in and develop programs for students. Below are a few of these programs:

## Right to read

Each year during right to read week, officers act as celebrity readers for the primary school students. Normally these students must guess what kind of occupation the celebrity readers have, but unfortunately their uniforms make that too easy.





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## Video game tournament

Our resident gamer, Chief Butler, participates yearly in the middle school video game tournaments with 5-8 grade students.



## Morning Announcements

During National Police week officers take turns co-hosting morning announcements with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.



## Teenage Driving Program

School resource officers help teach teenage drivers about the dangers of driving. The class covers teenage driving restrictions, OVI laws, road rage, how to react in certain driving situations (bus stops, funeral processions, malfunctioning traffic lights, etc..). The students also participate in mock traffic stops, and field sobriety tests.

**SUNDAY APRIL 10 AM - 2 PM**  
**INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA & PARKING LOT**

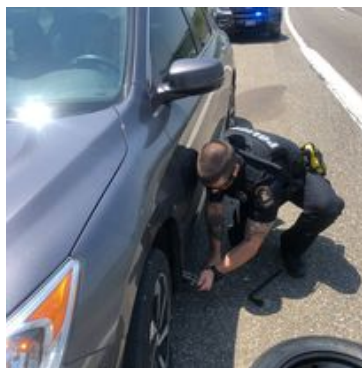
**TEEN SAFE DRIVER PROGRAM**

Independence Police Department are hosting a FREE, one-day course on: distracted driving, impaired driving (OVI), common violations, d n accident, mock traffic stops, OVI field sobriety tests, situational g, road rage, equipment (lights, battery, tires, etc.), and interacting

ration material must be completed and returned in person to the endence Police Department. Parent/guardian must drop off compl ration for any drivers under age 18.

[REGISTRATION FORMS ON THE WEBSITE](#)

LIMITED TO 30 STUDENTS: Open to Independence teen drivers or the of a resident ages 16-19 with a valid driver's license.  
Registration March 6 - 17 (or until the session is filled)





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## ***Work Out Programs***

School Resource Officers created a workout program for students and staff. These 30–45-minute workouts promote healthy living and bring everyone together.



## ***Alice Training***

Officers trained in ALICE teach School employees and students how to be safe. Officers and teachers practice yearly drills to help them prepare for an emergency.



## ***Other Community Outreach Programs***

Officers armed with stuffed animals (for children in crisis) and ice cream coupons (awarded to children spotted wearing a bike helmet) help the officers connect with children of the community. Independence Police continue to encourage children to run to the police for help, not away from us. These tools provide additional methods for our officers to develop positive relationships within the community.

