



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

## Grove City Division of Police

June 2024

The The Grove City Division of Police is committed to Community Policing. They have over a dozen programs that are based off the principles of Community Policing. These programs reach a diverse range of ages among the community. They ensure that everyone can have the opportunity to have positive interactions with Grove City police officers from a young age to some of our most mature citizens.

Though all the programs are worthy of recognition, they wanted to highlight several. The Community Connection Cart, Citizens Police Academy, Community Watch Volunteers, and Explorers Program.

### ***Community Connection Cart***

The Community Connection Cart is a program where Police will drive a marked golf cart around different neighborhoods within the Grove City community. This is to foster positive community relationships and gives people an opportunity to have friendly conversations or ask questions to their local police without ever having to leave their driveway. This program has had a very positive response from community members. It is a great way for the division to learn more about the citizens and their wants/needs for their area.

Sometimes, the Community Connection Cart is the first positive interaction that a person has with a police officer. It helps to break down barriers and allow for unique opportunity for connections to be made.



### ***Citizens Police Academy***

Citizens Police Academy is hosted on a yearly basis. It is a ten-week program where members of



the community can gain insight into the Grove City Division of Police mission, goals, objectives, and operations. They learn about police dispatching, basic life support with our local fire department, patrol officers, detectives, constitutional laws, special response team, special operations bureau, K9 officers, use of force, self-defense, traffic



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crashes, and OVI. During the first half hour of each class, they get a social half hour to interact in a casual way with officers and staff of the Grove City Division of Police.



After graduating from the Citizens Police Academy, attendees are eligible to join an independent, nonprofit 501C3 organization named the Grove City Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (GCCPAAA). The GCCPAAA is dedicated to volunteering for the City of Grove City and commonly works to volunteer for the Division of Police, specifically. They often volunteer through working parades, City events, care packages around the holidays, and provide meals to officers. During 2023, they volunteered a total of 2,429 hours to the City of Grove City, which values at \$77,242.20 saved through volunteer efforts. The GCCPAAA just recently won 2022 Citizens Police Academy Alumni

Association of the year by the National Citizens Police Academy Association.



## ***Community Watch Volunteers***

Another option after graduating from the Citizens Police Academy is a Grove City Division of Police program, Community Watch. To be a volunteer with Community Watch, citizens must be a graduate of the CPA and receive additional training. The Community Watch Volunteers receive training on the topics of crime prevention, driving, radio use, and traffic control. They serve as an additional set of eyes and ears for the division. They are instructed to not do anything to put them in harms way, but they can help with tasks like patrolling neighborhoods and shopping center parking lots, performing lock outs on vehicles of community members, and calling in suspicious activity they may see. They also are a huge help with traffic control during parades, city events, and roadway closures. During 2023, they volunteered a total of 1,024 hours to the Grove City Division of Police, which values at \$32,563.20 saved through volunteer efforts.





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## ***Explorer Program***

The Explorer Program has proven to have lasting results. The Explorers Program is a group that teens/young adults can join if they are between the ages of 14 and 20 years old. The Explorers volunteer with the Grove City Division of Police. They can sign up to volunteer for City events with the Police like our "Boo Off Broadway," which is a massive Halloween/trunk-or-treat event in Grove City. They also volunteer for things like parades, art shows, National Night Out, recruitment events, etc. Explorers learn about law enforcement work. They learn about law enforcement topics like traffic stops, traffic crashes, domestic violence, active threat situations, cruisers, burglaries, etc. They are also given the opportunity to tour places like BCI, Franklin County Coroner's Office, Homeland Security Office and more to see what jobs are available outside policing but still in the criminal justice field. They also spend time preparing to compete in the Heart of Ohio Competition yearly. Some Explorers will also participate in Youth Police Academies, one member graduated the Indiana State Patrol Youth Police Academy, which is a week-long academy where participants are taught how to conduct traffic stops, crime scene investigations, building searches, physical training, and more.

