



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



## Agency of the Month

### Oxford Police Department

May 2024

The City of Oxford, Ohio is located in Butler County in southwest Ohio and is a small quaint town that becomes a bustling vibrant city during the school year because it is the home of Miami University. The City is noted for its livability and vibrancy and was recently cited by Forbes as the #1 Best College Town in America. Miami University brings families and visitors to our small city and we host a number of NCAA Division I sporting events. While the surge of students brings many common town-gown problems such as overconsumption of alcohol, noise, litter, and a parking shortage, it also brings great diversity and opportunity to a small sized mid-Western city. All of these components create a challenge for local government and in particular policing the community. The City of Oxford Division of Police consists of thirty full-time officers, one part-time officer, and eighteen civilian support staff. The Division proudly provides a wide range of police services and programs to the community. Highlighted below are some of our community outreach efforts.

#### ***Coffee with a Cop***

Oxford Police provides the community with an opportunity to sit down and enjoy a cup of coffee while connecting with officers. The department loves to host one over Miami University's Family Weekend, giving parents and students' siblings a chance to converse with the department that keeps MU's students safe.





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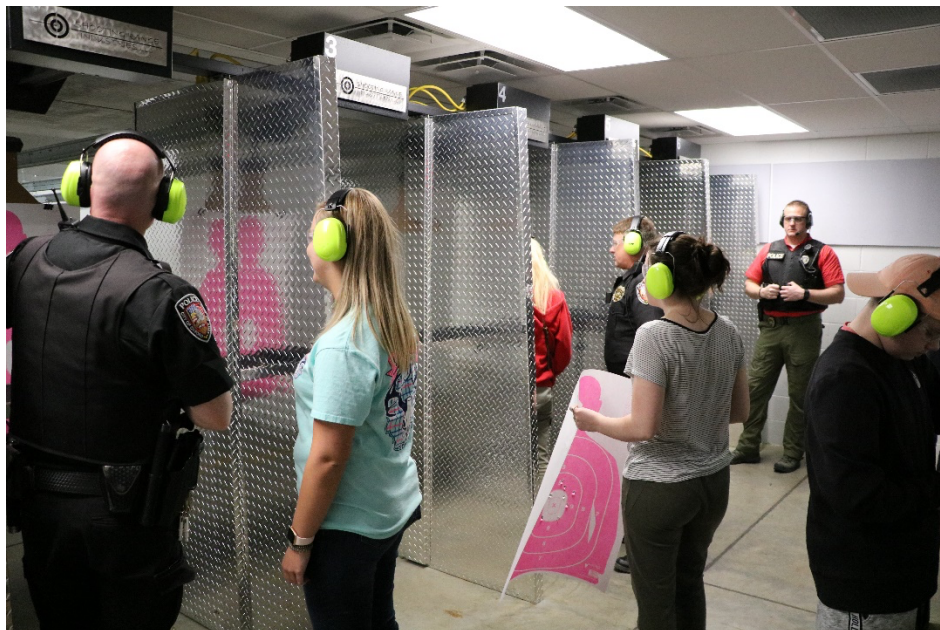
## ***Public Safety Cadets Program***

Every year, Oxford Police hosts their public safety cadets program on Sundays. These meetings provide people, ages 14-20, interested in becoming an officer or going into the field of criminal justice with experience in police related activities. These activities include hostage negotiation, building searches, traffic stops, CPR and emergency first aid, crime scene investigations, evidence collection, arrest/search and seizure, and more!



## ***Citizens Police Academy***

Oxford PD has been hosting a Citizens Police Academy for over 25 years and it continues to be an important part of our community outreach strategy. Officer Matt Wagers has lead our CPA for the last few years and continues to build on the foundation of the 10 week long program held every spring. It brings a good mix of students and community and becomes the training ground for our Citizens Observer Patrol program.







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## ***Citizen Observer Patrol***

The Oxford Police Department is proud to announce a program designed to involve Oxford residents and Miami University students in patrolling Oxford neighborhoods to enhance the quality of life shared by all and deter criminal behavior. The Citizens Observer Patrol (C.O.P.) is a program utilizing volunteers throughout the community to act as “eyes and ears” for officers on patrol. C.O.P. teams will patrol neighborhoods in the C.O.P. vehicle and will be encouraged to radio or telephone in any suspicious activities that merit police investigation. C.O.P volunteers also support various community events such as music festivals, fireworks, and parades.





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## **Red Brick Friday**

Red Brick Friday is an outdoor event that gives the Oxford community a chance to visit uptown businesses while enjoying festivities along High Street. The police department has participated in this event since its inception during the pandemic. The heart of our City being the Uptown Parks and High Street are blocked off to make a pedestrian mall so that all activities can be safely enjoyed. These activities consist of live music, food trucks, and various games and attractions.







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## ***Fishing Derby***

The Oxford Police Division sponsors this program that allows children aged 6-16 to learn all they need to know about fishing. The kids fish from 10 a.m. until noon, and those that catch either the biggest or the most fish are awarded a prize. It is a great way to get kids away from the screen and outdoors while interacting with our officers!



## ***Lions Club Halloween Parade and Trick or Treat events***

Oxford has several Halloween events where officers get to engage with our younger population. We attend several trunk or treat events at churches and the high school and pass out candy and police bracelets. On the last Thursday of October, the Uptown business district holds their trick or treat. Games are played in the uptown parks and the night ends with the much-loved tradition of the Lions Club Halloween Parade that our officers lead. Finally, on Halloween night is our residential trick or treat nights where officers are out in full force in the neighborhoods to give out candy, slow down traffic, and recruiting anyone wearing a police costume to work a shift!







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## ***Cops and Kids Holiday Dinner and Shopping Event***

This is an annual event held by the Oxford Division of Police in which officers start by enjoying a dinner with the community's children. We also invite officers from the Oxford Township Police Department and the Miami University Police Department to participate. Afterwards, the kids ride with officers as they parade out to Walmart, turning on their lights and sirens for the kids to enjoy. Each kid then gets to shop around with an officer, using gift cards that have been donated by Walmart. It is a special time to help make Christmas better for these families and is especially rewarding for the officers.







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## ***Respect for Law Camp***

Created by the Butler County Chiefs of Police Association, this camp is intended to show children the positive aspects of Law Enforcement, teaching them respect, leadership, teamwork and kindness. The campers get to participate in activities such as rappelling from a firetower, mock traffic stops, target shooting in an FBI pellet gun course, K-9 demonstrations, and more.

