



Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

Dayton Police Department

May 2025

The Dayton Police Department strongly embraces the philosophy of Community Engagement in all its daily operations. Some of the community programs are:

Dayton Police Youth Outdoor Adventures

This program focuses on youths who have experienced life altering trauma by being victims of severe abuse and/or neglect or have lost a parent(s) or sibling to violence or drug overdose. Many of these youths are being raised in foster care, group homes or by extended family members and have very little interaction with the great outdoors or with other youths facing similar life experiences. Many become isolated with very little interaction with the outside world beyond what they see on a computer screen or social media site.

Operation Santa Sleigh

The Dayton Police Department is a lead agency in organizing Operation Santa Sleigh in Montgomery County. Area law enforcement and firefighters plot different routes throughout our local area with a focus on driving through communities and by hospitals with their lights on to bring holiday cheer to those who are spending the holidays in the hospital. Operation Santa Sleigh always ends outside of Dayton Children's Hospital where all of the first responder vehicles park outside creating a sea of flashing lights on and wave to all of the children in the hospital to know that we are thinking of them and their families during the holiday season, which can be especially difficult if a child is in the hospital at that time.

National Night Out

Each year, officers from the Dayton Police Department's Community Engagement Unit, alongside department leadership, fellow officers, and City of Dayton staff, participate in National Night Out, a nationwide effort to strengthen police-community relationships. Officers visit multiple locations across the city, engaging with residents through conversations, activities, and neighborhood gatherings. This event fosters trust, promotes crime prevention awareness, and reinforces the spirit of unity between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Trunk or Treat

In the fall our officers in the Community Engagement and K9 Units work with numerous schools and organizations to great family friendly events. Officers engage with the students providing a positive interaction and relationship and gives community members a chance to talk to officers as well.



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Angel Tree Program

Each year, the Fraternal Order of Police, along with officers, professional staff, and retirees from the Dayton Police Department, come together to spread holiday cheer through the Angel Tree Program. This initiative “adopts” families in need, ensuring that children receive Christmas gifts and essentials they might otherwise go without. Parents are given the opportunity to share a few wish list items, and participants strive to fulfill them—often going above and beyond to make the holiday season extra special. Families are selected through community organizations the department regularly partners with, as well as cases where officers have encountered families facing difficult circumstances. Every child receives a winter coat and, starting in 2024, a warm blanket, along with a variety of thoughtful gifts. The Angel Tree Program is a heartfelt effort to bring joy and hope to local families during the holiday season.

Cocoa with Cops, Cones with Cops, Coffee with a Cop

The Dayton Police Department has partnered with Kroger to provide free hot cocoa at a community Kroger store for free. There was also a wheel set up to spin for additional free prizes. For when the weather gets warm DPD and Kroger provide free ice cream in the store for people to enjoy. Officers also partner with area coffee shops to have time to meet the community and talk with community members over a free cup of coffee provided by the Police Department.

The Dayton Police Department's Community Engagement Unit also works with organizations for other similar events like Free Slurpee Day, partnering with Speedway.