



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

*Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing*



## Agency of the Month

### Westerville Division of Police

December 2025

The Westerville Division of Police has organized and led a variety of impactful outreach initiatives aimed at creating meaningful connections, educating the public, and promoting safety for all ages. Their programs are designed to meet the diverse needs of the community, and they continue to serve as a model for effective, compassionate policing.

#### ***Safety City***

A hands-on educational experience that teaches young children vital pedestrian, traffic, and personal safety lessons in a miniature, interactive city setting. This program lays the foundation for lifelong safety awareness and builds early positive relationships with officers. Westerville Safety City started 48 years ago in 1977 with just 50 students. Since then, the program has consistently reached over 200 students year after year, which reflects the importance of this education.





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## ***National Night Out***

An event that brings neighborhoods together with law enforcement for an evening of community celebration, safety awareness, and open communication. The event fosters unity and showcases the department's commitment to partnership and prevention. The highlight is always the water balloon fight at the end between police and children. The City of Westerville has partnered with WPD and has begun hosting its own event in a city park to include community members who may not have the chance to participate through neighborhood watch groups or other associations.



## ***Cops and Kids Day***

A highly anticipated annual event where children and families engage directly with law enforcement through activities, demonstrations, and fun, educational displays. It creates a welcoming environment for youth to interact with officers outside of enforcement settings. Cops & Kids Day regularly draws in over 1,000 families and has the opportunity to engage with over 40 law enforcement agencies around Central Ohio. The event regularly features helicopters, SWAT teams, K-9 units, motorcycles, mounted units, and drone teams.





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

Informal gatherings that allow community members to ask questions, share concerns, and connect with officers in a relaxed, approachable setting.



## ***Hooks With Heroes***

By combining community engagement with outdoor recreation, Hooks with Heroes is a program for participants to fish (or learn how) with first responders to help build bonds and strengthen relationships with the community. The two sessions this summer brought over 160 children and their families together for fishing fun. All children in attendance received a free fishing pole or prize courtesy of Teach Me to Fish Westerville, a local non-profit organization dedicated to fostering family connection through the sport of fishing.



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## 4th Friday

A longstanding annual street festival located in historic Westerville's Uptown business district. The festival takes place on the fourth Friday of each month from May to October and allows community members to support or connect with local businesses and vendors while enjoying food, shopping, and live entertainment. Each event draws as many as 10,000 people and features more than 100 vendors. WPD has a strong presence at this event by not only providing event security but also an engagement tent offering free giveaways and a friendly setting to interact with officers.

