

## **Volunteers Help Make Our Community 'A Safer Naper'**

Naperville may have a small-town feel, but it is a bustling city. Naperville boasts nearly 150,000 residents and 39 square miles of residential, commercial, recreational and industrial development, making it the fourth largest city in the State of Illinois.

Keeping a city of this size safe is a big job. We are certainly up to the task, but we're also thrilled to say that we don't have to do it alone. Crime is a community problem that requires a community solution. Fortunately, Naperville residents have a very strong sense of community and are willing to get involved in the safety of their community. These volunteers are certainly helping make our community A Safer Naper.

### **NAPERVILLE POLICE EXPLORER POST 2683**

**Current number of volunteers:** 15

**Year established:** 1976

**Contributions to the Police Department/community:** Naperville Police Explorers are young men and women between the ages of 14-21 who are interested in "exploring" a career in law enforcement. We provide them with training and classroom instruction in law enforcement activities and procedures as well as hands-on practical exercises in various police-related scenarios. Explorers are also involved in physical training to prepare them for policework and testing. This training allows the Explorers to be an extra resource for the NPD, as well as contributors and volunteers for various community events. Over the past two years, the Naperville Explorers have put in more than 800 hours of community volunteerism! Because of their interest in the field of law enforcement, they also contribute by becoming future police officers.

**Why NPD appreciates their efforts:** We appreciate our Explorers for their commitment to the law enforcement profession and to community service. Currently, we have officers working at the Naperville Police Department that participated as a youth in the Explorer program.

**Any other interesting facts or anecdotes about this group?** We are the oldest Police Explorer Post in the State of Illinois. Exploring is a Boy Scouts of America program.

**Looking for more volunteers?** Yes! If you are interested in becoming a Police Explorer, please visit [www.naperville.il.us/NPDEXplorers](http://www.naperville.il.us/NPDEXplorers) for information.

### **COMMUNITY RADIO WATCH**

**Current number of members:** 17

**Year established:** 1982

**Contributions to the Police Department/community:** These are trained citizens from the City of Naperville who donate approximately 1600 hours of volunteer time annually. Our CRW volunteers conduct assigned driving patrols to be on the lookout for crimes, like motorists driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Volunteers wear a common uniform shirt, jacket and badge. They drive their own vehicle or walk the beat. Individuals also carry a police radio to

communicate valuable information to patrol units in real time. CRW members assist with planned events such as marathons, parades and assisting downtown units with Black Wednesday. The group annually handles security for the Riverwalk Art Fair, Field of Flags [Rotary Hill] and Neuqua Valley High School. CRW also conducts seatbelt surveys bi-annually, identifies speed zones through static radar patrol and collates electronic device distraction of drivers for a given area and timeframe.

**Why NPD appreciates their efforts?** These volunteers are passionate about helping keep their hometown safe by acting as extra eyes and ears for the police department. With their enthusiasm for the department, they are also our ambassadors out in the community. Each is eager to learn and assist where they are needed.

**Interesting facts?** Most of current CRWs have a professional background in such careers as engineering, business and even former law enforcement. One of our volunteers was also awarded Volunteer of the Year by the VFW last year for his commitment to CRW and the city. He rewrote our CRW manual, improved training and is a leader in volunteering for the team!

**Looking for more volunteers?** Always! If you're interested in learning more, contact CRW recruitment lead Dan Bulley at [dbulley@mca.org](mailto:dbulley@mca.org) or Sgt. Brad Marsh at [Marshb@naperville.il.us](mailto:Marshb@naperville.il.us).

## **NAPERVILLE POLICE CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION**

**Current number of volunteers:** 9

**Year Established:** 1977

**Contributions to the Police Department/community:** Our Police Department chaplains are clergy from various religious faiths within the city who donate their time to be on duty for one or more 24-hour periods each month. Police chaplains provide spiritual guidance, counseling and comfort in times of tragedy. They also provide long- and short-term aid to victims of crime or other domestic crisis where the individual may need the comfort and guidance of local clergy.

**Why NPD appreciates their efforts?** People respond differently to stress and trauma, and the chaplains are able to provide another type of support to those who need it. This group of volunteers not only takes care of our officers and staff, but also community members who need spiritual guidance, counseling and comfort.

**Any other interesting facts or anecdotes about this group?** The chaplains also assist with mental health initiatives and ALICE training in the community and work closely with our department's internal Peer Support team.

**Looking for more volunteers?** Yes. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Sgt. Derek Zook at (630) 420-8833 or Kurt Lange at (630) 615-7607.

## **CIVILIAN TOUR GUIDES**

**Current number of volunteers:** 4

**Year established:** The tour program started in 2004

**Contributions to the Police Department/community:** The tour guides volunteer their time to conduct tours of the police department for scout troops and other community organizations. The tour guides provide positive information concerning the operation of the police department. This also contributes in promoting a positive relationship between the police department and the community. Tours of the police facility include our dispatch center (PSAP), jail, specialized police vehicles and the general operation of the department.

**Why NPD appreciates their efforts:** They project a positive image of the police department. They conduct the tours with enthusiasm and a sense of pride. Each tour guide volunteers their time to establish this positive relationship with the community. The guides enjoy answering the kids' questions and hearing their comments during the tours.

**Interesting Facts:** In 2018, 51 tours were conducted for 811 attendees. In 2019, 42 tours were conducted for 657 attendees.

**Looking for more volunteers?** Not at this time.

### **NAPERVILLE CRIME STOPPERS**

**Current number of volunteers:** 15

**Year Established:** 1982

**Contributions to the Police Department/community:** Naperville Crime Stoppers (630-420-6006) solicits crime tips from the community. Callers may remain anonymous and tipsters are eligible for cash rewards up to \$1000.00 for information that leads to an arrest. These tips assist the Naperville Police Department in solving crimes. Since the inception of Naperville Crime Stoppers, this group has helped solve hundreds of crimes and have been responsible for the recovery of over \$8 million in cash, drugs and property. Crime Stoppers also helps with crime prevention efforts in Naperville. They have been active in educating residents concerning the "Lock It or Lose It" campaign, as well as burglary and substance abuse prevention and personal safety strategies.

**Why NPD appreciates their efforts:** We appreciate Crime Stoppers because they have been instrumental in solving some very difficult and high-profile cases that would have otherwise gone unsolved. Their existence allows citizens to do the right thing without fear of retaliation or the fear of having to testify in court.

**Any other interesting facts or anecdotes about this group?** Naperville Crime Stoppers is an Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association certified program and additionally is a member of Crime Stoppers USA. They recently launched a new division, "Animal Crime Stoppers." Callers may report animal abuse, neglect and cruelty. With this new division, Naperville Crime Stoppers helps protect people, pets and property!

**Looking for more volunteers?** The Board of Directors is currently looking to fill one vacancy. If you'd like more information or an application, please email Mary Browning at [browningm@naperville.il.us](mailto:browningm@naperville.il.us).

### **COMMUNITY ACCESS NAPERVILLE (C.A.N.)**

**Current number of volunteers:** 7-10 volunteers typically attend

**Year Established:** Community Access Naperville is a registered not-for-profit organization that was incorporated in 2011

**Contributions to the Police Department/community:** Volunteers through Community Access Naperville (C.A.N.) come to NPD on the first Thursday of every month for one hour. They meet in the community room and put together supplies like as rulers, bookmarks and magnets used for our school safety programs. The group provides a valuable service for the police department and elementary school students involved with our safety programs.

**Why NPD appreciates their efforts:** These volunteers complete tasks for us that would otherwise take valuable time from performing our duties. They perform these tasks with a positive attitude and are an inspiration to not only the department, but the community.

**Looking for more volunteers?** While NPD is not currently looking for additional volunteers to complete these monthly tasks, Community Access Naperville is a registered not-for-profit organization that is always looking for additional volunteers to work with and get to know their participants. Visit [www.communityaccessnaperville.org](http://www.communityaccessnaperville.org) for more information.

## **CONNECTIONS203**

**Current number of volunteers:** 2

**Year established:** Partnership established in 2017

**Contributions to the Police Department/community:** Our Connections203 volunteers perform various tasks throughout the department, such as office supply replenishment, office decorations, records retention/disposal, furniture relocations, file management, facility reorganizations and Animal Control laundry duty.

**Why NPD appreciates their efforts:** Dom, Joey and their teacher Marlena bring such a positive and energetic spirit to the department. They help the department accomplish tasks that are difficult to get to in the day-to-day nature of public safety functions. Their assistance and contribution allows the department to operate with greater efficiency by catalyzing record keeping compliances, having office supply resources available and making NPD personnel lives easier altogether. This volunteer program through Connections203, allows for volunteers like Dom and Joey to gain professional working experience, have a positive relationship with their local police department through face-to-face interactions and experiences, and drives Connections203's purpose of transitioning those with special needs into the working world.

**Any other interesting facts or anecdotes about this group?** Joey and Dom take part in regular basketball games coordinated through Connections203 and their Special Olympics program. Additionally, Dom who has family overseas, spends entire summers in Lithuania! Joey upon every visit with the department, shares how his musical vocal skills have improved, which they have and he is very passionate about.

**Looking for more volunteers?** If you have anyone attending Connections203 and you would like for them to work with the PD, this can be coordinated through their vocational coordinator. Additional information about Connections can be found at [www.connections203.com](http://www.connections203.com).