

## PROGRAM HISTORY

President George W. Bush created USA Freedom Corps (USAFC) to build on the countless acts of service,



sacrifice, and generosity that followed September 11. As a White House office, USAFC is charged with building a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America. Citizen Corps, a vital component of USAFC, was created to help coordinate volunteer activities to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation.



Citizen Corps partner programs build on the successful efforts

in place in many communities around the country to prevent crime and respond to emergencies. VIPS is one of five Citizen Corps partner programs. The International Association of Chiefs of Police manages and implements the VIPS Program in partnership with, and on behalf of, the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The program's ultimate goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers.



**BJA** Bureau of Justice Assistance

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps  
[www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov)

President's Volunteer Service Award  
[www.presidentialserviceawards.gov](http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov)

Citizen Corps  
[www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)

Bureau of Justice Assistance  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA)

Office of Justice Programs  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov)

International Association of Chiefs of Police  
[www.theiacp.org](http://www.theiacp.org)

Volunteers in Police Service Program  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
515 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
1-800-THE-IACP  
[info@policevolunteers.org](mailto:info@policevolunteers.org)  
[www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org)



This project was supported by Award No. 2005-DK-BX-K025 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



# VOLUNTEERING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

## A Citizen's Guide





## WHAT IS THE VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE PROGRAM?

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program is a national program which provides support and resources for law enforcement agencies interested in developing or enhancing a volunteer program and for community members who wish to volunteer their time and skills with a community law enforcement agency. Local VIPS programs offer direct volunteer opportunities and conduct their own screening, recruitment, and placement.

### How Do I Start?

If you are interested in serving your community by volunteering with a law enforcement agency, you can search the directory on the VIPS Web site [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org) to find a local VIPS program near you. If there is not a program listed near you, contact your state or local law enforcement agency to find out if they have a volunteer program.

### What Are The Requirements?

Application requirements will differ from program to program. Most law enforcement volunteer programs will require a background check. There may also be requirements based on age, background and availability. You should check with the agency's volunteer coordinator to find out any special qualifications.

## TYPES OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many different types of volunteer programs and volunteer opportunities, including:

- Administrative assistance
- Citizen patrol
- Citizens' advisory board
- Speakers bureau
- Neighborhood Watch
- Crime mapping and analysis
- Search and rescue
- Cold case squad
- Victim assistance
- Disaster response
- Graffiti abatement
- Special events
- Translation
- Crime prevention
- Explorer Post
- Internship
- Chaplain
- Reserve officer
- Auxiliary officer

## THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The program recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain number of volunteer hours served over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime. Adults can begin earning an award at 100 hours of service. Individuals can earn the President's Call to Service Award once they have provided 4,000 hours of service over the course of their lifetime.

Award recipients receive an official President's Volunteer Service Award pin, a personalized certificate of achievement, a note of congratulations from the President of the United States, and a letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Many local VIPS programs participate in the President's Volunteer Service Award program.

