



SKOKIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

neighborhood WATCH

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Many Cultures, One Community - Keeping Skokie Safe 2015

In summer 2015, the Village of Skokie's Public Safety Commission launched a new public safety awareness campaign in several Skokie neighborhoods. Called Many Cultures, One Community – Keeping Skokie Safe, the campaign aimed to unite neighbors and increase the strength of Skokie's neighborhoods and involved nearly all Village departments and many community agencies.

An important campaign component was to strengthen the relationship between citizens and Skokie's first responders. Several times each week throughout June, July and August, representatives of Skokie's Police Department brought their mobile "COPS" vehicle into the neighborhoods to talk to residents, pass along safety information and engage with the community. Often, police officers were joined by firefighters and staff from other Village departments as well as the Skokie Public Library and Skokie Park District. Prizes were given, food was shared, information was exchanged and the result is that residents in the campaign neighborhoods saw first-hand that the police, firefighters and other professionals care about them and their neighborhoods.

The Many Cultures campaign is an example of Skokie's continual commitment to innovation and excellence, and to the dedicated community service of the Skokie Fire and Police Departments.



See Something? Concerned About it? Report it!

In July of 2010, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched a national "If You See Something, Say Something"™ campaign – a simple and effective program to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper state and local law enforcement authorities.

The public should report only suspicious behavior and situations (e.g., an unattended backpack in a public place or someone trying to break into a restricted area) rather than beliefs, thoughts, ideas, expressions, associations, or speech unrelated to terrorism or other criminal activity. Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation alone are not suspicious.

If you see something suspicious taking place, report the behavior or activity to the Skokie Police Department at 847/982-5900 or, in the case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

The Village of Skokie has a 24-hour, anonymous Crime Tip Hot Line to allow citizens to report suspicious circumstances or criminal activity. Citizens with information about a crime, suspicious persons or activities, or the whereabouts of a wanted suspect can call the Crime Tip Hot Line at 847/933-TIPS (8477) 24-hours a day and leave a message with information that could assist police with investigations.

For more information, please contact the Skokie Police Department Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit at 847/982-5919.

See something? Concerned about it? Report it!

See something? Concerned about it? Report it. Crime Tip Hot Line at 847/933-TIPS (8477) 24-hours a day.



Leaving Kids Home Alone

Many parents must choose between leaving their children home alone while they are at work or finding alternative care. Illinois law regarding Child Abandonment states children can be left alone at the age of 13. However, numerous factors should be considered when determining if a child can be left alone.

These factors include, but are not limited to: the duration of time left alone, environmental conditions, the time of day or night, the location/distance away of the parent during the time they are gone, whether the child has access to a phone with emergency numbers to call.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- Stay in touch. Call children throughout the day to ask how they are and what they are doing. Ask children to check in before they leave the house and to call again when they return.



- Post important numbers by the telephone, including parent's work and cell phone, the doctor's office, and a neighbor or a nearby relative who can help children quickly if they need it.
- Practice what to do in an emergency by

teaching children when and how to dial 9-1-1 or "0".

- Set firm rules. Make clear what children are allowed to do and what they aren't allowed to do. This can include the use of the internet, inviting a friend over or cooking.

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE READY

Can your children:

- Be trusted to go straight home after school or after playing at a neighbor's house?
- Easily use the telephone, keys and locks?
- Follow rules and instructions well?
- Stay home alone without being afraid?
- Say their full name, address, and telephone number?

If you feel comfortable leaving your children home alone, discuss it with them and start practicing what they should and shouldn't do. Role play different scenarios to prepare them for anything that might happen when they are home alone.

Prevent Porch Package Theft

When having packages delivered to your home, beware of "porch pirating" – when a thief steals delivered packages from your doorstep or porch. Thieves can follow delivery trucks, watching for prime targets.

These thieves commonly strike during working hours as many homes are empty at that time. Have your packages delivered to a location where they can be received in person, such as a neighbor or relative's house. If possible, consider having your package delivered to your workplace. When making a purchase online, if the retailer provides the option, choose a specific delivery time when you will be home. If purchasing from a larger retailer, consider having your package delivered to a local store for pick-up.

Take advantage of delivery alerts so you can be notified when a package arrives at your home. If you are not available to pick it up, ask a trusted neighbor to take your package inside for safekeeping. When possible, request that the delivery company hold your package at their closest pick-up facility until you can pick it up.

You might be able to ask the shipper to require a signature confirmation of delivery in order to prevent packages being left when no one is home to sign for them.



If possible, provide delivery instructions so packages can be left out of sight from your yard or the road, such as on a back porch. Have packages delivered to a post office box if available. Have a neighbor or house sitter check for your packages on a daily basis.

Have you started a Neighborhood Watch on your block? Connecting with your neighbors is the greatest way to foster open communication about the community and provide additional security to your home. Contact the Crime Prevention for more details at 847/982-5922.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours in Skokie

The Village of Skokie has set Halloween trick-or-treat hours from 3 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. Please encourage your children to respect the privacy of homeowners and to not ring doorbells before or after this period. If the outside house light is not on, do not disturb the homeowner by ringing the doorbell.

For more Halloween safety tips see the article below, visit www.skokie.org or contact the Crime Prevention Division at 847/982-5922.



Halloween in Skokie and Safety Tips

It's that time of year again. Halloween is a fun time of year, so let's make sure it's a safe holiday for all who participate.

The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. You can make this Halloween season fun and enjoyable for your kids and neighbors by following these safety tips:

WALK SAFELY

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing. Keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep head up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should have a designated walking route.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

TRICK OR TREAT WITH AN ADULT

- Children under the age of 12 should not be trick-or-treating alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

KEEP COSTUMES BOTH CREATIVE AND SAFE

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.

- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- Help your child choose a costume that will be safe.
- If your child is carrying a prop, make sure it is soft and flexible.

DRIVE EXTRA SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Halloween is one of the most celebrated holidays when it comes to decorations. While the decorations add to the season, unfortunately they are also a target for individuals who choose to ruin holiday fun. Criminal damage is more likely when decorations are left out overnight.

Protect your property and your neighbors, report suspicious persons immediately! Suspicious behavior may include vehicles driving around the area multiple times during the evening hours, or groups of youth walking and lingering around an area for long periods of time. Be on the look out and contact the Skokie Police Department in the case of an emergency 9-1-1.

Questions? Please contact the Crime Prevention Division at 847/982-5922.





Skokie Makes It Easier to Report Issues Using Mobile Devices

It's easier than ever for Skokie residents to report issues within the Village. Residents who want to report graffiti, high weeds, a pothole, malfunctioning streetlights or any other problem can use their smart phones or tablets to snap a picture of the issue with a GPS-specific location and send it directly to the Village. The goal is easier reporting for the public and a faster, more coordinated response by the Village.

To report an issue on a smart phone or tablet, visit www.skokie.org and use the 'Report an Issue' function under the Action Line tab.

Users can submit reports anonymously or include their contact information. Either way, once an issue is submitted, residents can keep track of pending requests.

Through this new mobile application, users also can easily view news and other happenings within the Village as well as submit crime tips, yard waste collection requests, Freedom of Information Act requests and ask questions or leave comments.

Village staff processed nearly 3,300 service requests in the last year through the Village's website, www.skokie.org. The Village of Skokie Action Line provides residents with an around-the-clock solution to submit issues without calling the Village or going to Village Hall. The new mobile 'Report an Issue' application gives the public another quick and easy way to reach the Village.

This new mobile application should never be used while driving, and residents should never put themselves in danger to take a photo. The 'Report an Issue' function should only be used for non-emergency inquiries. Those reporting emergency situations should always dial 9-1-1.



Save the Dates!

The Skokie Police Department Tip-A-Cop event takes place at Red Robin, 7050 Carpenter Road on October 24, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Skokie Police officers will be waiting tables and collecting tips towards donations for the Special Olympics Illinois Chapter.

The Skokie Police Department's "Shop with Kids" is December 12, 2015. This effort by the Skokie Police Department provides a one-on-one holiday shopping experience for students who may go without presents this holiday season. Qualification for the program is coordinated by the individual Skokie School districts. Please contact your school district to qualify.

Additionally, the Skokie Police Department will once again be a collection site for Toys for Tots. New, unwrapped toys will be accepted at the front desk in November and December 2015.



For more information, please contact the Crime Prevention Division at 847/982-5922.

