

General Patrol Procedure

When you arrive at Amity Township Crime Watch, Inc. base for your patrol you will be asked to do the following: (1) Sign in, (2) Fill out vehicle identification and register beginning mileage, (3) Receive and sign out equipment, (4) Pick up and check patrol kit and clip board. Always check items for missing or malfunctioning parts. Use either the cell phone provided by ATCW or if you prefer, a personal cell phone. Using ATCW magnetic signs on your vehicle is not mandatory.

Each patrol shall consist of a minimum of two people. As you begin patrol you must call Berks County Communications Center at **610-655-4911**. Identify yourself as a member of ATC W and ask the Communications Center operator to have the Amity Police Duty Officer contact you by phone. Give the Communications Center operator the number of the cell phone you are using on your patrol. When the Amity Duty Officer calls, identify yourself and ask for any special instructions. "ALL COMMUNICATIONS FROM CRIME WATCH MEMBERS WHO ARE ON PATROL TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE MADE BY CALLING THE 610-655-4911 NUMBER UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED."

Patrol routes are determined by the patrol, unless advised by the Amity Police. Drive at a normal speed and vary the route, you do not want to be predictable or conspicuous. Continuous driving is not required. Patrols may remain stationary to observe activities for a reasonable length of time. Patrol breaks are allowed.

Report suspicious persons, vehicles, crime contributing conditions, fires, accidents, existing or potential road hazards and stranded motorists to police and record on patrol log. Make note of as much specific information as possible, i.e., time, location, registration #, make, model, color, direction of travel, descriptions of persons, number of persons, etc.

Assisting stranded motorists is up to the individual. Our preferred action is to notify the police and continue patrol. Never leave your vehicle on an assist without first notifying police of the full description of vehicle and occupants, along with exact location.

First on scene of an accident requires alertness and quick judgment. Report nature of accident, location and injuries (if any) immediately. Remain on the scene until help arrives. Cooperate with police and emergency personnel. Assist upon request only.

In case of a crime in progress, always maintain a safe distance. Never place yourself in any danger. Observe and report all activity. Report persons or vehicles leaving the scene immediately. Note mode and direction of travel with descriptions. Use the same for Assault in progress, with the exception; you sound the horn to distract the assailant. It may or may not be effective.

All patrols continue for three hours, however this is flexible, i.e., weather conditions, etc. Starting and ending time will be determined as you are scheduled. At the end of your patrol, return to base and return all equipment.

Absolutely no long distance phone calls of a personal nature will be permitted while using the ATCW cell phone.

Please remember that the crime watch program is a non-physical cooperative citizen police program. It does not involve any physical confrontation, citizen patrol or vigilante type activity on your part.

The crime watch program is being conducted in cooperation with the Amity Police Department, but not by them. Everyone is a volunteer.