

## **5 tips to getting started**

*Whether you're a motivated individual or a member of a group of concerned residents, nearly anyone can start a Neighborhood Watch group for their neighborhood.*

*1. Map out your neighborhood geographically to determine which houses will be included. Start small.*

*2. Talk to your neighbors to see what their concerns are and who would be interested in participating.*

*3. Call the Oconto County Sheriff's Office to set up a mutually agreeable first meeting with your neighborhood. Tell us about any concern or specific issues that you would like to be discussed at the meeting.*

*4. Start a committee to help plan the first meeting. Assign people to market the first meeting, make/buy food and manage meeting logistics.*

*5. Advertise the first meeting to everyone in your geographically defined neighborhood. Involve children in your neighborhood by having them help hand out fliers.*



**For more information or additional resources contact:**  
Oconto County Sheriff's Office  
**920-834-6900**  
**301 Washington Street**  
**Oconto, WI 54153**  
**Ocontocountysheriff.info**

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## **NEIGHBORHOOD** **WATCH**

***Take a stand  
against crime***



Oconto County Sheriff's Office  
301 Washington Street  
Oconto, WI 54153  
920-834-6900

## Why Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a voluntary crime prevention program that helps citizens identify & report suspicious activity in their neighborhood to their local law enforcement. It also gives citizens the tools to make neighborhoods safer and improve their quality of life. Neighborhood Watch groups typically focus on getting to know the people living nearby, strengthening observational skills & stressing the importance of "watching out" for your neighbors.

With the rise of technology and a busy working community, many neighborhoods are becoming less personal. Numerous families have two working parents and children involved in activities that keep them away from home. An empty house that isn't being watched by neighbors can be a prime target for burglary.

By bringing together neighbors to reestablish control of their neighborhood, it fosters a sense of community and reduces crime.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What does a Watch group do?**

A Neighborhood Watch group is a community of neighbors that watch out for each other. They are the eyes and ears who make it a priority to know their neighbors, recognize possible issues where they live and report crime or suspicious activity to law enforcement.

### **Q. How old do members need to be?**

**A.** Anyone can join—young or old, single or married, renter or homeowner.

### **Q. I live in an apartment; can I start a Watch group?**

**A.** Yes. Watch groups are formed around geographical units, such as subdivisions or townhouse complexes.

### **Q. What are my responsibilities as a Watch group member?**

**A.** To know your neighbors, watch out for each other, and to report suspicious activities to the Oconto County Sheriff's Office. You will also have the opportunity to learn how to make yourself and your community safer.

## What are the major components?

Neighborhood meetings. Meetings should be held on a regular basis, but you choose how often. Some groups meet monthly. Others meet twice a year.

Communication. This can be as simple as a monthly newsletter or email update. Communication is crucial to creating safer neighborhoods.

Special events. Some Watch groups host talks or presentations that focus on various crime prevention topics.

