

Starting a Neighborhood Watch

The following steps show how to start a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood

- You or a neighbor decides to host an initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- Whoever is going to host the meeting calls the HCSO Crime Prevention Office at 893-9111 to provide their name, address and phone number. After making the call, the Crime Prevention Office will deliver a "starter packet" that will include, among other items, a form to collect information from your neighbors.
- The host or designee goes up and down the block contacting the neighbors and recording their name, address and phone number on the form. (Note: At least 50% of the homes on the block must be represented at the Neighborhood Watch meeting to qualify for sign placement.)
- The host then gives the completed list back to the Crime Prevention Office.
- After the CP Office receives the list from the interested party, a Crime Prevention Specialist will contact the host to set up a date and time for the Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- Fliers will also be given to the host to be given out to the neighbors as a "last minute" reminder.
- At the meeting, the host provides chairs and simple refreshments.
- The Crime Prevention Specialist will conduct the meeting and towards the end, facilitate the group's selection of a Block Captain who will function as the neighborhood leader and will serve as a contact person for the Harnett County Sheriff's Office.
- The Block Captain is responsible for contacting new neighbors and for providing updated information to the Crime Prevention Office (Block Captain replacement, etc).
- The block is now organized and may collectively purchase community watch signs. The signs may be ordered (by the Block Captain only) through the Crime Prevention Office.