



# Crime prevention is kids' stuff

The safety of your children and the success of your block club depend on your getting youth involved in your block club's crime prevention efforts. Involving youth will help them and your block club too.

## 1. The Minneapolis Police Department strongly urges having youth participate in block clubs because:

**Youth Are Often Victims of Crime:** (Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics 1997)

- ◆ Persons 12-17 compromise
  - 10% of the population
  - 22% of all violent crime victims
  - 20% of rape/sexual assault victims
  - 21% of robbery victims

(Source: 1999 National Report, OJJDP)

- ◆ Estimated 2.7 million crimes of violence (sexual assault, robbery, agg. assault, simple assault) are committed against teens (12-18). (1996)
- ◆ Estimated 3.7 million thefts are committed against teens.

### **Block clubs benefit youth:**

1. Block clubs can help youth learn safety habits to reduce their chances of being a victim and help reduce their fear of crime.
2. Block clubs can help increase youths' feelings of importance and social responsibility by giving them a chance to participate actively in efforts that benefit everyone.
3. Block clubs can improve youths' image with adults by allowing them to engage in positive activities and help change negative stereotypes.

### **Youth participation benefits your block club:**

1. Youth are another set of eyes to help strengthen your watch force. They often spend more time outside on their block than adults do and may be more aware of suspicious activity.
2. Youth are another set of hands to help with your block club's projects and activities. They can help distribute flyers, clean up the neighborhood, plan block social events, and be of assistance in many other ways.
3. Youth participation in a block club can help reduce crime and antisocial behavior by involving youth in positive, beneficial activities.

### **Encourage youth to be involved in regular block club activities. Include youth in many of the block club activities adults enjoy, such as:**

1. Block or alley cleanups
2. Block parties
3. A meeting with a police officer
4. Holiday caroling



**Help with special projects and encourage youth to take on special block projects such as:**

1. Recycling
2. Baby-sitting during block meetings
3. Snow shoveling, yard work, or baby-sitting services for neighbors
4. Youth Watch Force
5. Tackling neighborhood problems
6. Devising their own crime prevention activities for the block
7. Graffiti cleanup and neighborhood cleanup

**2. The best way to get started is to select a Youth Block Coordinator.**

This does not have to be the block leader, but rather another block member interested in volunteering in this capacity. He or she will be responsible for coordinating and initiating youth involvement on your block.

**Youth Block Coordinator**

The Youth Block Coordinator plans fun events and activities geared towards youth.

**Suggestions include:**

1. Block party for youth (perhaps during school vacation)
2. Outdoor sports like skating, sledding, softball, kickball, etc.
3. Movies
4. Field trips to the zoo, police station, Children's Museum, etc.
5. Roller skating or roller blading
6. Snow sculpture contests

These ideas and options are just a beginning. Think of the youth on your block, what they like to do, and what current block issues are to come up with more possibilities. Talk with youth and parents to get more ideas and feedback.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see [www.minneapolis.gov/police/crimeprevention/police outreach safe-teams](http://www.minneapolis.gov/police/crimeprevention/police_outreach_safe-teams) to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit [www.minneapolis.gov/police/crimeprevention](http://www.minneapolis.gov/police/crimeprevention).



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737  
Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700  
Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500  
Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800  
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If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.