



## IOWA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### **STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP**

1. Interested citizen checks with neighbors in area to determine interest in program.
2. Crime Prevention Officer lays out size of area and number of homes that will be eligible to participate. Depending on geography, between 10-30 homes.
3. Set a date for an orientation/information meeting to be held at a home in the neighborhood. Meetings are held on, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
4. Informational pamphlets (also serving as the meeting invitation) handed out to all eligible homes, 7-9 days before orientation meeting.
5. Orientation for participants. Meeting will be canceled if less than three homes are represented.

### **MEETING AGENDA:**

- Neighborhood Watch presentation – why we need it? What do we do to participate?
  - Networking – watching each other's homes and passing on information.
  - Choose a block captain – acts as contact person and coordinates activities of the group.
6. 80% of eligible homes need to participate (sign an agreement form) to qualify for newsletters, sign, window stickers, and guidebooks.
  7. Have one meeting a year to update members, involve new neighbors, maintain interest, etc.

Contact the Iowa City Police Department's Crime Prevention Office for more information: 356-5273