about training peer counselors to help in emergency or tense situations.

- Work with younger students in your school and with students in lower level schools to help them understand emergency policies. Because you’re a bit older, these children will often look up to you and listen to you. You could even become a mentor to one or two younger children.

- Develop student announcements, school newspaper inserts, bulletin boards, and other communications that help keep students (and others) up to date on homeland security issues, especially as they apply to your community.

- Energize student support for first responders through educational visits, fundraising drives, and discussions of procedures in place and issues confronted.

Your Community

- Speak with others who live outside your neighborhood about the importance of preparing intelligently for emergencies and how neighbors can work together. Offer to connect them with what’s happening in your neighborhood so they can learn from your experience.

- Volunteer in hospitals, police stations, fire and ambulance stations, and similar primary response agencies. Use your talents and your willingness to work to pitch in for the whole community.

- Talk with youth groups about what your school or neighborhood has done or is doing to become better prepared to deal with emergencies.

- Offer to bring to other parts of the community programs you have developed for younger children.

- Use youth talent (anything from a basketball marathon to a battle of the bands) to raise funds for local emergency agencies.

- Sign up with the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, or another emergency-response organization as a volunteer.

- Speak up at public hearings for the needs and concerns of youth and children in emergency situations. Work with other young people to come up with a list of ways you can help and ways the community can help you.

- Sign up (if you are old enough, which depends on your area) as a volunteer firefighter, or attend a citizens’ or a youth academy, if your police department offers one.

- Talk with youth groups and youth-serving organizations around the community about working together to help your neighborhoods and each other develop and sharpen emergency prevention and response skills.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ncpc.org
www.nationaltcc.org
http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/yia.html
www.ncjrs.org
www.ready.gov
www.fema.gov
www.citizencorps.gov
Teens have been involved in preventing crime for many years. They have worked with elders, peers, and children in settings ranging from neighborhood parks to schools to senior citizen centers to shopping malls. They have proved their capacity and willingness to help.

What can teens do about preventing and responding to terrorism and other civic emergencies?

**You and Your Family**

- Learn how to report crime or suspicious activities or situations promptly and effectively.
- Make sure you know how to handle mail safely. Do not open any mail that looks suspicious; call local emergency authorities immediately.
- Help develop family action plans and take responsibility for updating them.
- Assist in gathering a family supply kit and keeping it fresh.
- Help identify “take with” items in event of an emergency evacuation.
- Identify any special needs you personally have for supplies and take responsibility for them.
- Learn CPR and first aid to help with medical emergencies.
- Help develop family action plans and take responsibility for updating them.
- Local emergency authorities immediately.
- Do not open any mail that looks suspicious. Call local emergency authorities immediately.
- Make sure you know how to handle mail safely.
- Effective.
- Learn how to report crime or suspicious activities or situations promptly and effectively.

**Your Neighborhood**

- Encourage your family to join or help start a Neighborhood Watch program in your community.
- Build up ties to neighbors and schoolmates. The better these relationships, the more likely you will successfully respond together to any threat. The better these relationships, the more likely you will successfully respond together to any threat.
- Learn how to report suspicious actions or situations promptly and effectively.
- Help organize clean-ups and fix-ups so that neighbors can more readily spot potential problems.
- Get training in child care so you can help watch your older relatives or neighbors who live in your area.
- Offer your help in developing a neighborhood plan for preventing and responding to emergencies. Ask your local fire department for more information. Visit www.ncpc.org/programs/homelandsecurity for more information.
- Offer your computer skills to provide a neighborhood directory and an inventory of skills and assist that your neighbors are willing to share.
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- Help your team to organize and carry out plans.
- If you have a special skill (perhaps you have volunteered in a hospital or worked at a police station), offer to help your neighborhood Volunteers.
- Volunteer neighbors.
- Offer your help in developing a neighborhood survey.
- Help to conduct the neighborhood survey.
- More information.
- Offer your help in developing a neighborhood watch.
- Start a School Crime Watch if your school does not already have one.
- Start a School Crime Watch if your school does not already have one.
- In charge of your school does not have an electronic security system with cameras and controlled access, encourage your school to install one. If your school does not have an electronic security system, encourage your school to install one.
- Learn about school policies in different kinds of situations. If so, join a school drill. If not, offer to help organize drills.
- Support the school’s efforts to help our in emergencies.
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- Find out whether your school has a group of volunteer students to help out in emergencies. If so, join a group. If not, offer to help organize drills.
- Start a School Crime Watch if your school does not already have one.

**Your School**

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