

COMMUNITY

Eight Crime Prevention Tips for Teens

NewsUSA

(NU) - Many teens have an incredible impact on their communities. According to a recent survey, more than half of incoming college freshman had volunteered in high school on a regular basis.

Teens can help in many ways to make neighborhoods safer by strengthening their skills or learning new ones. The National Crime Prevention Council has developed a campaign to let teens — and adults — know how effective young people can be in reducing crime by participating in activities they already enjoy.

Here are just a few of the strategies that young people can use:

- Learn ways to reduce crime risks, such as locking your house or car and avoiding fights.
- Find out how to report crime and suspicious activities. Help adults and other teens learn these important skills.
- Work with your Neighborhood Watch. Perhaps you can provide an after-school patrol.
- Create specific action projects to address neighborhood problems, such as graffiti.
- Look for ways to help others in the community find safe places they can enjoy.
- Serve as a role model for younger children and the community as a whole. Become a mentor, tutor, volunteer or Little League coach.



Many teens serve as mentors for young children.

- Use art, poetry, music and dance to convey crime prevention messages to others.

- Talk with youth groups about adopting community safety as an important priority. Enlist their members in making neighborhoods safer and better.

Community centers, after school centers and youth groups can use a flexible, adaptable curriculum like Teens, Crime and the Community to help teens learn about crime, its consequences and its prevention. This program invites teens to put their knowledge to work right away by designing and carrying out their own crime prevention projects.

For more information on the many ways teens can make neighborhoods safer, log on to www.ncpc.org, www.weprevent.org, www.nationaltcc.org or www.cyar.org.