

## COMMUNITY

# Get Teens Involved in Making Communities Safer

NewsUSA

(NU) - Trying to tackle a neighborhood problem? A vast reservoir of volunteer talent is right there in your community: teens.

Many teens want to get involved but don't know where to start or don't feel like they have the necessary skills. You can help your community simply by asking young people for a hand. Adults who tap the power of teens find a rich source of talent, energy and concern.

Teens are eager to get the job done and are proud of their achievements. They also are more likely to link learning and real world activities, improve academically, show increased responsibility and caring for others, and build stronger ties to their communities because of their experience.

What can teens do to make their communities safer? The National Crime Prevention Council suggests the following ideas:

- Turn vacant lots into community assets such as play areas, community gardens and green spaces.

- Help those who are infirm improve the security of their homes by installing devices such as lights, timers, and wide-angle viewers and trimming shrubbery.

- Work with younger children on traffic responsibility, personal safety and similar issues as both teachers and role models.



**Teens help their communities in many ways.**

- Help catalog and identify solutions for various neighborhood problems by working with Neighborhood Watch and the local community police officer.

To get even more involved, teens can join, or start, programs such as Youth as Resources and Teens, Crime and the Community. Youth as Resources, a community-based initiative, offers locally raised funds to youth to tackle a project addressing a community need they believe to be important. Teens, Crime and the Community helps young people explore crime's effect on teens, their families and friends, and their neighborhoods. Then they design and carry out a project that makes their neighborhoods safer.

For more information on these programs, visit [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org). To learn more about public service advertising that helps bring adults and teens together in these ways, visit [www.weprevent.org](http://www.weprevent.org).