

## Swinomish Police- Swinomish Citizens on Patrol.

1. The main goal of the Swinomish Citizens on Patrol is to enhance community safety and security in order to maintain the quality of life in the Swinomish Village, Shelter Bay and tribal reservation overall.

### **FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES:**

2. The primary function of this program is to perform certain non-hazardous duties traditionally performed by commissioned police officers.

The reassignment of tasks to willing and capable citizen patrol members helps free officers to concentrate on enforcing traffic laws, assisting crime victims and spending more time in investigation.

By freeing those officers to perform the serious and important duties they have been trained to do, the Swinomish Police Department is able to provide better service to our community.

In turn, citizen patrol members derive a measure of pride and satisfaction from providing enhanced security to Shelter Bay, Swinomish Village and the tribal reservation overall.

By pro-actively engaging in crime prevention programs such as the Swinomish Citizens on Patrol, we are helping to reduce the likelihood of victimization for our whole community.

3. The Citizens Patrol performs a variety of duties. They will patrol our area by vehicle and on foot, checking for suspicious activity, signs of break-in, vandalism or unsecured property. They can conduct vacation house checks, observe and report erratic or unsafe drivers.

Citizen patrols have assisted in locating missing persons, stolen vehicles and providing traffic control and other duties as assigned.

Their primary objective is crime prevention and at no time should they put themselves in any kind of hazardous situation. The duty of Swinomish Citizens on Patrol is to observe and to report only, always keeping in mind that we are not to take any enforcement action. Safety is of primary importance. We do not want any of our members to become victims.

4. Citizen patrol members will receive training through a policy manual, riding along with experienced patrol members and training sessions at selected monthly meetings. Occasionally, citizen patrol members will be given the opportunity to attend special training seminars.

#### **WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR TO SERVE IN THE PATROL:**

5. We seek mature, stable individuals with valid driver's licenses who are Swinomish Tribal members, residents of Shelter Bay or persons who permanently reside within the boundaries of the Swinomish Tribal Reservation. They must be of good character with no recent history of criminal behavior. Ideally, they will have a willingness to learn, to accept supervision, and are able to commit to 6-8 hours within 2 or so shifts per month. The citizen patrol member should possess a complete lack of rigidity, prejudice, bigotry or any judgmental attitude toward others not like themselves. All citizen patrol members must submit to a background, driving status check and fingerprinting prior to being accepted in the patrol.

#### **LIMITATIONS:**

6. The citizen patrol are not trained or commissioned police officers, so they will not take any type of enforcement action, which may endanger themselves or their partner. They should never place themselves in a dangerous situation or get involved in anything that could become confrontational. Should members of the citizen patrol inadvertently find themselves in a dangerous or confrontational situation, they are expected to immediately back away to safety and notify police dispatch by radio or phone.

\*Swinomish Citizen On Patrol members will never arm themselves with any type of weapon while on duty. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE, regardless of your personal qualifications. This includes such items as pepper spray.

Contact Info:

Community Officer Harris, SCOP Coordinator

Cell: 360-708-0982

Email: [charris@swinomish.nsn.us](mailto:charris@swinomish.nsn.us)