

# **Groesbeck Police Department**

## **Citizen on Patrol Program**

Citizens on Patrol is a program that utilizes volunteers to help reduce or prevent crime. These special volunteers patrol their neighborhoods, becoming extra eyes and ears for the Groesbeck Police Department.

Volunteering with the Groesbeck Police Department allows individuals to actively contribute to their community's safety and well-being. As a volunteer, you can work alongside local law enforcement, assist with community events, and provide valuable support to the department.

Volunteering with the police department can help you gain valuable experience, develop new skills, and make connections within your community. It can also be a fulfilling way to give back and positively impact the community.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Persons participating in the Citizen's Patrol program must:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- Must be a business owner or resident of Groesbeck, Texas (exceptions for applicants residing in southern Limestone County).
- Have a valid Texas driver's license or be active military with a valid out-of-state driver's license and maintain a satisfactory driving record.
- Have the desire to volunteer and donate at least eight (8) hours of time per calendar month to patrolling, 1-2 hours for a monthly meeting, and participate in at least one community event per year.
- Must not have any criminal convictions, court-ordered community supervision, or probation for any criminal offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or any Class B misdemeanor within the past ten (10) years. Misdemeanors are subject to review.
- Have no felony convictions.
- Have no outstanding warrants for arrest.
- Successfully complete the Groesbeck Police Department Citizens on Patrol Orientation Training.
- Ability to recognize, understand and report suspicious activity. Skill in communicating effectively with individuals.
- Agree to comply with Groesbeck Police Department Policies & Procedures, and Directives.
- Pass a thorough background investigation and driving history review.

- Complete the next Groesbeck Police Department Citizens Patrol Academy upon acceptance.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

To sign up for the next available Citizens on Patrol new member orientation training course, you must first be processed and accepted as a volunteer for the City of Groesbeck Police Department.

1. Complete an application
2. Once you have submitted your application, a criminal history and driving history review will be performed.
3. If you have successfully passed the criminal history and driving history review, you will be notified by email or phone with additional information.

## **TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must complete a 4-hour block of training. Within 45 days of completing training, they must then complete the following:

- Ride with one of our police officers for 4 hours,
- Sit in and observe the Limestone County Communications Center for 1 hour, and
- Ride with a certified Citizens on Patrol member

This gives a basic understanding of calls for service and situations the officers must handle. When both training phases are completed, applicants receive a COP identification card and the required equipment items.

They are then eligible to patrol with a partner. COP members must also attend an upcoming Citizen Patrol Academy.

## **DUTIES**

- Patrol neighborhoods, parks, and businesses
- Report suspicious people and vehicles
- Report traffic hazards
- Perform traffic control at special events
- Complete vacation checks and close patrols
- Cohost community events; educate the community about crime prevention
- Report city ordinance violations

## **EQUIPMENT**

Members patrol in an assigned Citizens on Patrol vehicle. Members are forbidden to carry weapons of any type, even if they are licensed concealed carry permit holders. Members are trained to safely observe and report criminal activity, not try to stop it.

Individuals will use cell phones or radios supplied by the COP program to contact the communications center.

Members will receive one set of COP-approved uniforms and a traffic vest.

## **DISQUALIFIERS**

- Failure to properly complete and provide character references, employment information, and other information requested on the application.
- Violations of the Groesbeck Police Department policies.
- Been convicted of a felony or any offense that would be a felony if committed in Texas.
- Been arrested for crimes of moral turpitude.
- Used (tried), sold Marijuana, possessed Marijuana, or used Marijuana other than for experimentation. Experimentation cannot be within five (5) years of application.
- Used (tried), sold, or possessed any dangerous drugs or narcotics, including cocaine, crack, heroin, LSD, Methamphetamine, etc.
- Been dishonorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.
- Have or had a pattern of abusing prescription drugs.
- Must have no more than four (4) traffic violations or preventable accidents in the past five (5) years, with no more than two (2) in the past 18 months.
- Been previously employed as a law enforcement officer and since has committed or violated federal, state, or city laws relating to criminal activity.
- Lied during any stage of the volunteer screening or acceptance process.
- Falsified any portion of their questionnaire or application.
- The illegal possession, carrying, or attempting to carry a firearm on city premises, including all city facilities, vehicles, and any other applicable city property. This includes all individuals who possess a permit to carry a concealed handgun.
- Possession of any firearms or other objects considered an illegal weapon as defined by the Texas Penal Code. Examples of some of the items are an expandable baton (asp), illegal knives, brass knuckles, etc.

## **DISCRETIONARY DISQUALIFIERS**

- The following disqualifiers may, upon review by the Groesbeck Police Department, make you, the applicant, ineligible and will be used to release a member from the Volunteer program at any time.
- Non-Completion of all required applications and paperwork.
- Failure to complete the required in-house training or academies necessary to properly train departmental volunteers.

- A physical or mental disability that would substantially impair an individual's ability to perform his/her duties or threaten the safety of themselves or others.
- Alcohol misuse and/or abuse before and/or during the volunteer term.
- Commission of any felony before and/or during any volunteer term.
- Any other conduct or pattern of conduct that would tend to disrupt, diminish, or otherwise jeopardize the public trust in the law enforcement profession.
- Breaches in Confidentiality.
- The removal, copying, transmittal, or release of any information considered confidential or non-confidential.
- Verbal release of any confidential information.
- Inappropriate behavior relating to sexual harassment or racial slurs.
- Any act or behavior tending to bring reproach or discredit on themselves or the department.