



Tips for Creating a Rural Crime Watch Group

A crime watch group is a relatively low-cost endeavor with focus on the sharing of information relating to crime prevention but does require an active Executive and member participation to succeed and prosper.

Here are some tips for getting a local crime watch group started in your area:

- Get in touch with your local RM office and let them know what you are doing. See if there are any established crime watches already in your area and once your group is established, they could help get the word out about your crime watch group.
- Contact your local Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachment for brochures, and hand-outs. Work to make connections with local law enforcement who can potentially assist your group.
- Recruit members and choose an executive.
- Create an online presence for your group. Use social media sites like Facebook to share information with the public, create an email, and texting. They are easy to setup and maintain.
- Establish a way for your members to communicate what is going on in the area and to discuss things of importance. WhatsApp is a popular app used for member only chats. It can be linked and used on your computer as well as phone and works on different smartphone operating systems.
- Use free online tools like Drop box for file sharing and working on group projects with your executive members.
- Seek sponsorship from local businesses to help with basic expenses.
- Have a reasonable one-time lifetime membership fee so you don't have the logistics of renewals and late fees to manage going forward.
- Create business cards. Avery Labels 5371 is a great template to use. You can design your own cards on the Avery web site and then print them out.
- Be aware of what sort of criminal activity is happening in the province, and particularly your area.
- Monitor websites like:
 - <https://saskcrimestoppers.com/> - Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers
 - www.sasktip.com/ - Saskatchewan Turn in Poachers (TIPP)
 - <http://www.rcmp.gc.ca/en> - RCMP

****Also keep up to date on any social media groups that residents within the RM use or to discuss local issues****

- For your meetings: invite speakers from your local Fire Department, RCMP, Conservation officer, First Responders as well as Security Companies or businesses that sell trail cameras or monitoring devices.
- Create a new members package that can be dropped off to neighbours.
- Set up a booth at community events like large bake sales or special town events and hand out information.
- Host fun events like a basic BBQ and encourage existing members to get to know new members and new homeowners in the area.

For additional information:

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