

Community Partnership Connection



Sheriff's Office Now has Outreach Deputies at Five Elementary Schools!

Law enforcement officers can play an important role in protecting our children and helping them gain the skills they need to make positive decisions for the rest of their lives.

Based on that philosophy, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office has been a Partner in Education at all four Sun Valley elementary schools (Esther Bennett, Virginia Palmer, Lois Allen and Sun Valley) since 2013 and has just recently partnered with a fifth elementary school in Incline Village this year.

Each Deputy works closely with school administrators to create a unique outreach plan for that school that includes safety curriculum, mentoring, assisting with at-risk children, and most importantly being a positive role model to each student. They spend a minimum of 12 hours each month at their designated school.

The Outreach Deputy program is a designed to be a proactive approach to help our children deal with the many pressures they face in and out of the classroom such as identifying dangerous situations, internet safety, and luring to name a few.

Ultimately our hope is that we create a positive experience between law enforcement and the children which lasts throughout their lifetime.

Photo right: Deputy Jeff McCaskill at Sun Valley Elementary School



Sheriff Allen, Outreach Deputy Demitropoulos, then Esther Bennett Elementary Principal Michael Henry, AP Gladis Dias (now Principal), and Deputy Harvey



Many parents and guardians feel they are faced with new and unprecedented challenges when trying to keep their children safer in today's fast-paced society. Younger children should be supervised by you or another trusted adult, a person you have come to rely on and with whom you and your children feel comfortable. You should teach older children how to recognize and avoid potentially dangerous situations.

You should not expect your children to rely solely on their judgment about people, even if the person is someone known to you or your family. It is also important not to confuse children with the concept of "strangers." The "stranger-danger" message is not effective, as danger to children is often much greater from someone they or you know. The important message to teach children is to get out of potentially dangerous situations as quickly as possible, no matter whom the person is.

The thought of your children being abducted may leave you feeling frightened and unsure about how to best protect them. In an analysis of more than 8,000 attempted abductions, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® found 40% involved children between the ages of 10 and 14; 72% involved the suspect driving a vehicle; and 83% involved a child who did something proactive to escape the would-be abductor including walking, running, pulling away, yelling, kicking, attracting attention and/or otherwise resisting.

The analysis also revealed the five most common tricks used by individuals attempting to abduct a child included offering a child a ride, offering the child candy or sweets, asking the child questions, offering the child money or using an animal.



What can parents/guardians do?

1. **Instruct your children to always take a friend when going places, and stay with a group while attending school outings and/or standing at the bus stop.**
2. **Teach your children the appropriate steps to take if approached or followed, such as loudly yelling "This person is trying to take me!"**
3. **Instruct your child to make every effort to escape by running, pulling away, kicking, etc.**
4. **Teach your children it is more important to get out of a threatening situation than it is to be polite. It is okay to be impolite and say "No!"**
5. **Talk openly to your children about safety and encourage them to tell you or another trusted adult if anyone makes them feel sad, scared or confused.**
6. **Practice basic safety skills with your children by creating "teachable moments" to make sure they understand the safety messages and are able to use them in real life situations.**
7. **Be involved in your children's activities. By participating you have a better opportunity to observe how adults in charge interact with children.**
8. **Remember to never leave children unattended in a vehicle, whether it is running or not.**
9. **Know where your children are and whom they are with at all times. Make it a rule for your children to check-in with you on a regular basis. Teach your children to never leave school with anyone unless they check with you first, even if someone tells them it's an emergency.**
10. **Remember you are your best resource for better safeguarding your family. Stay alert, informed.**

Nevada Department of Public Safety Awards Sheriff's Office Motor Unit
"Joining Forces: 2015 Best Overall Joining Forces Reporting Agency"



Top L to R: Lt. Phil Condon, Sheriff Chuck Allen, Deputy Ben Coffindaffer, Deputy Josh Fisher, Undersheriff John Spencer, Chief Deputy Sherman Boxx, and Deputy Miguel Diaz

Left: Lieutenant Phil Condon receives "Joining Forces Coordinator of the Year" award from DPS Joining Forces Program Manager Rebecca Barnett

Joining Forces is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement program administered by the Nevada Department of Public Safety/Office of Traffic Safety that promotes statewide enforcement in the areas of: DUI, distracted driving, seat belt, and speed and pedestrian safety. The goal of these enforcement campaigns is to save lives by increasing public awareness about the dangers of making poor choices while driving.

We are proud to announce that this month our WCSO Motor Unit was recognized by DPS/OTS for their outstanding performance both individually and as an agency. Additionally, Lt. Phil Condon was recognized for his "outstanding leadership and coordination" in supporting the continued success of the Joining Forces program. Deputy Ben Coffindaffer was awarded "Outstanding Performance - Officer of the Year." Deputies Josh Fisher and Miguel Diaz were also recognized for their outstanding performance.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office issued 291 speeding citations during the latest three-week, multi-agency Joining Forces traffic safety campaign held in late July and early August.

Sun Valley GID Supports
Graffiti Prevention, Education and
Abatement

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Sun Valley General Improvement District for their donation of more than \$8,600 to help fight graffiti in Sun Valley. Their donation will be used to provide graffiti removal supplies, educational materials and surveillance equipment. These funds help support WCSO efforts to reduce incidents of graffiti vandalism, remove graffiti when it occurs and increase public awareness.



With the large number of fires burning in the Western Region, firefighters can use all the help they can get, on the lines and in the command centers!

This month two WCSO Communication Specialists traveled up to Idaho to help with communications on the Cougar Fire. Communication Specialists Karinah Prevost and Karl Holden worked at the fire operation's base camp about 10 miles from the fire line just outside Cascade, Idaho. This is the first time Washoe Sheriff's Office Communication Specialists have been deployed for this type of service.



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*Dedicated Service in
Partnership with our
Community*

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WCSO Records and Civil Sections will now be open a half hour earlier!



Our Sheriff's Office Records and Civil Sections are now open a half hour earlier starting September 8th. In order to accommodate the growing number of people who would like access to Records and Civil Section Services before going to work in the morning, doors will now be open at 7:30 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Add a Little Color to your Life! Volunteer for "Color Me Rad" and support Special Olympics!

The WCSO is participating in the Special Olympics Color Me Rad fundraiser and would like to invite you to join us! The sponsors of Color Me Rad are offering an incentive to the Special Olympics of Nevada if runners sign up under a special promotion code or for helping them find volunteers. If you plan to participate in the Reno Color me Rad racing event, we encourage you to enter in promotional code "LETR," so that Special Olympics will receive 20% of the registration donated back to them. Additionally, if you volunteer at the RCMR event on behalf of Special Olympics, RCMR will donate \$75 per volunteer! Click [HERE](#) to fill out the volunteer form.

More about Color Me Rad (short for Radical!): The CMR is loosely based on the Hindu Festival of Colors, otherwise known as Holi. The festive colors used are a sign of winter's end and spring's new beginnings.

