

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

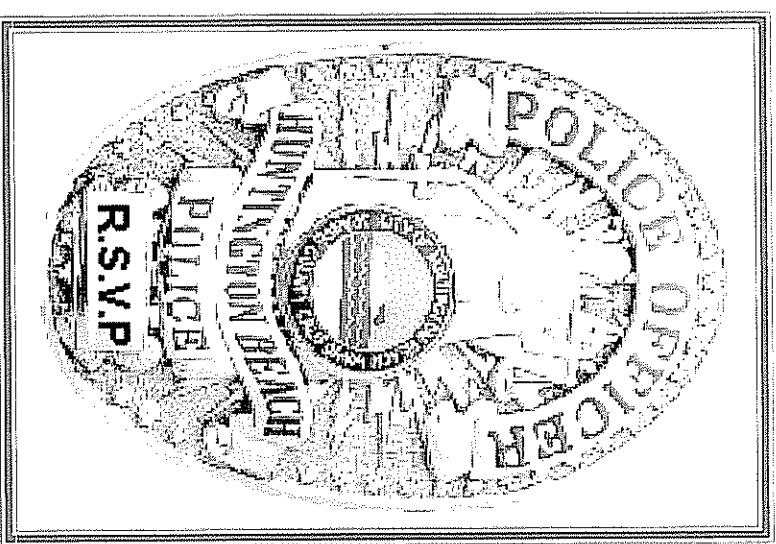
Huntington Beach Police Department

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Huntington Beach
Police Department's

R etired S enior

V olunteer P rogram

R.S.V.P.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

The R.S.V.P. is comprised of men and women, over the age of 55, who come from all walks of life. The reason most often given for volunteering was their desire to "give something back to their community." Now that they are retired, they can share their time, energy, wisdom, knowledge and talent with the Huntington Beach Police Department.

The Department's R.S.V.P. program began in 1994 when the first group of 25 volunteers graduated from an eight-week training program. Additional volunteers have graduated in the following years to bring the present number to 60.

Prospective applicants are selected after passing an oral interview, a background check, and a positive assessment of their suitability for the various duties performed with the Police Department. Participants must live in Huntington Beach, have a valid drivers license, and be in good physical health.

After the 15-hour training and graduation ceremony, volunteers are prepared to go forth and assist the Police Department as special ambassadors, performing a variety of tasks which otherwise could not be undertaken due to budget, personnel and time constraints.

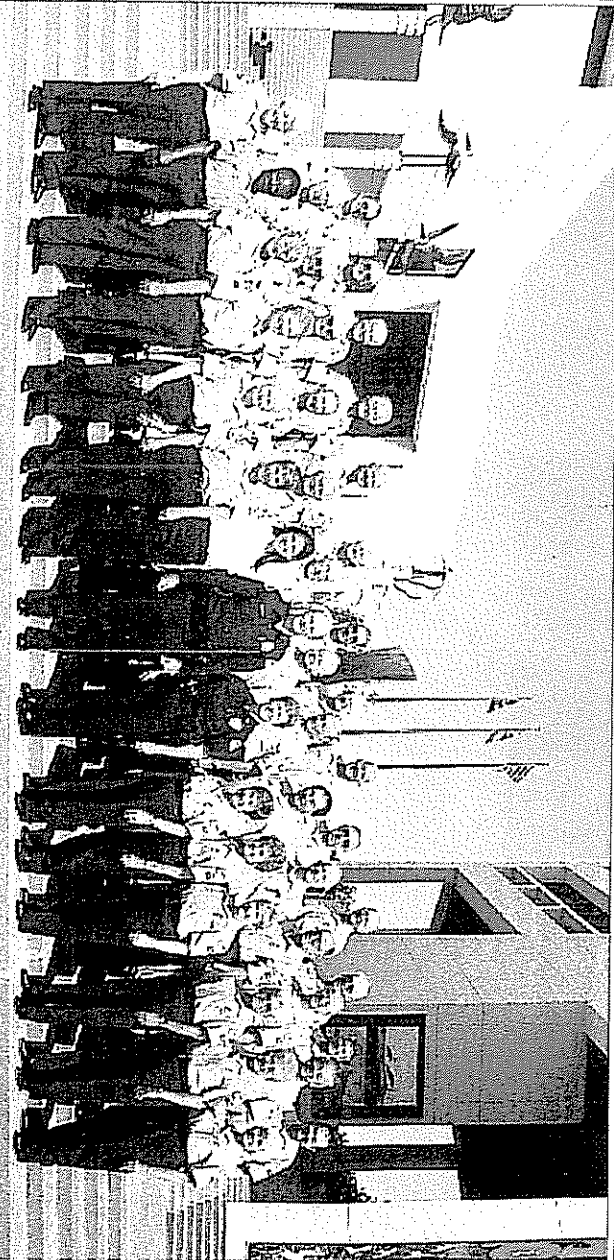
R.S.V.P.'s volunteer a minimum of six hours a week to the program, although many find their duties so interesting, rewarding and enjoyable, that some volunteer as many as 30-35 hours a week! The schedule for volunteer hours is very flexible so time off for travel, family fun and other "retirement activities" is understandable and encouraged!

There is a great deal of camaraderie, fun and friendship among the R.S.V.P.'s!

What do they do?

- ◆ Vacation house checks
- ◆ Take down illegally posted signs
- ◆ Cite illegally parked cars
- ◆ Staff Substations
- ◆ Work within the Department
- ◆ Community special events
- ◆ "Extra eyes and ears" for the Department
- ◆ Many other miscellaneous activities

R.S.V.P.'s have an active social calendar as well. Monthly meetings bring them together to munch on coffee and donuts, receive training from different areas within the Department and swap experiences while on patrol. The Annual Picnic, Award Luncheon and Holiday Party not to mention the preparation of the R.S.V.P. 4th of July float and after parade BBQ keep the members active and having a good time!



Retired Senior Volunteer Program 2003

Statistics

- ◆ Retired Senior Volunteers in this past year:
- ◆ Removed at least 30,000 illegally posted signs
- ◆ Performed over 4,500 vacation house checks
- ◆ Volunteered more than 30,000 hours.
- ◆ As of December 2000, R.S.V.P.'s have worked a total of 125,500 hours for the Police Department since the inception of the program in 1994.
- ◆ The R.S.V.P.'s contribute over \$750,000 in skills and time to the city annually!

The Huntington Beach Police Department is very proud of its R.S.V.P. volunteers and the fine work they perform. If you are interested in joining this elite group and meet the requirements for membership, please contact *Suzie Wajda*, R.S.V.P. coordinator, at (714) 536-5933 for an application. When there is a need for a new class of 20 R.S.V.P.'s you will be notified.