Sheriff Volunteers

The Volunteer Services Section of the Kern County Sheriff's Office is approximately 400 people who donate their time and skills to better their communities through the Sheriff's volunteer programs. This can be personally rewarding as we offer a wide variety of positions in nearly every community within one of the largest counties in the United States. We are very proud of our volunteers and the high quality service they provide to the citizens of Kern County. The four primary volunteer units are the Civilian Service Unit, Reserve Deputy Association, Explorer Post, Chaplaincy and Search and Rescue.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office Civilian Service Unit (CSU) are civilian volunteers who are dedicated to providing excellent service through relationships that build trust, create a safe environment, and enhance the quality of life in our communities. CSU member's primary objectives are to prevent crime by mere presence, or identify public hazards. They also perform routine police functions allowing deputies to concentrate more on the duties that only sworn personnel can perform. Members also act as the eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Office by identifying suspicious activities, crimes in progress, or dangerous circumstances. The members shall not take action themselves, but shall notify the proper authorities for handling.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputies provide a wide variety of services to the community, volunteering their time to work alongside career law enforcement personnel. Reserve Deputies are professionally trained and duly sworn law enforcement personnel. In most cases, Reserves are assigned to the same duties as regular deputies. Routine tasks such as patrol, booking, surveillance, investigative, and undercover work are just some examples of reserve duties.

The Explorers are young men and women between the ages of 15 and 21 years. Explorer Post 519 is affiliated with Learning for Life, which is a branch of Boy Scouts of America. They assist deputies with traffic and crowd control at different events and volunteer thousands of hours every year. Explorers are trained in law enforcement policies and procedures and attend bi-weekly meeting with advisors, who are Deputy Sheriffs or other law enforcement personnel.

The Chaplains are trained and utilized in counseling Department personnel and family members in a confidential manner in a wide variety of subjects, including spiritual matters, emotional difficulties, interpersonal conflict, family conflicts, and work stress related concerns. The Chaplains are also dispatched throughout the county to console families who have experienced a death in the family.

Kern County has eleven Search and Rescue teams throughout the county. Combined, the various teams are equipped to respond to search and rescue calls from the snowcapped peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the vast area of the Mojave Desert. Our search teams also are equipped to handle swiftwater rescue, cadaver detection, horseback searches, and everything in between.

The individual value and skill of every volunteer empowers our ability to promote and carry forward the traditions, goals and mission of the Kern County Sheriff's Office.