



**Eugene Police Department**

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Eugene Police applaud volunteers during National Volunteer Week**

National Volunteer Week is April 27–May 3. Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, National Volunteer Week is about thanking one of America's most valuable assets — our volunteers — and calling the public's attention to all that they do to improve our communities.

In 2007, 100 Volunteers in Policing Program volunteers donated nearly 23,000 hours of service. Because of the efforts of EPD volunteers, civilian and sworn employees are better able to focus on front-line duties, and the community receives services that lead to an improved quality of life in our area.

Police Captain Steve Swenson says, “Eugene Police's volunteer program has been recognized nationwide. We have an incredible cadre of dedicated citizens who have donated their time in extraordinary ways. They make the work in almost all EPD units more efficient. We are humbled and thankful for their gifts of time and talent that allow us to provide extra service for the community and ease the workload of an understaffed department.”

Volunteers provide support in nearly every unit of the police department. For example, administrative volunteers help maintain community access to substations, provide support for the Crimestoppers program, create CDs of 9-1-1 calls and radio traffic, file police reports and fingerprint cards, prepare letters for a vehicle break-in prevention program, assist with the disposition of confiscated property, track news stories, and enter child abuse referrals.

Field volunteers help staff crime prevention and volunteer recruitment booths at community events, perform disabled parking enforcement, wash vehicles, inventory and restock trunks, shuttle vehicles to and from maintenance, appear at events as McGruff the Crime Dog, help with bicycle maintenance and repair for the bicycle giveaway program, participate in a speakers' bureau, help residents register their bicycles, photograph special events, roleplay for team training exercises, remove graffiti, provide chaplain services, document serialized and valuable property for citizens, assist with traffic calming efforts by performing radar patrol, and conduct home vacation checks.

As part of EPD's National Volunteer Week Celebration, 58 volunteers received *President's Volunteer Service Awards*. This award, based on hours of service, is the most prestigious volunteer award currently connected to the White House that all Americans can aspire to achieve. Eighteen volunteers also received department service awards for contributing 1,000+, 2,000+ and 3,000+ hours of service since joining the police volunteer program.

Community members interested in volunteering with the police department are invited to call the Volunteers in Policing program coordinator, Carrie Chouinard, at 682-5355.

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