



Suncoast Crime Prevention Association

8110 7th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Florida Crime Prevention Association Annual Awards Nomination Category A Outstanding Crime Prevention Association

Suncoast Crime Prevention Association

Address: 8110 7th St. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Officers:

President	Nell Hays	Highlands County Sheriff's Office
Vice-President	Cynthia Sharp	Lakeland Police Department
Secretary	Vacant	Vice President is covering duties
Treasurer	Chip Wells	St. Petersburg Police Department

Board of Directors:

Alan Fifield	Manatee County Sheriff's Office
Neil Scully	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Lori J. Millard	Bradenton Police Department

Geographical Area Covered:

Hillsborough, Pasco, Manatee, Sarasota, Polk, Pinellas, Highlands Counties

Website:

www.suncoastcrimeprevention.org

Agencies Represented in Suncoast:

Bartow Police Department, Bradenton Police Department, Clearwater Police Department, Highlands County Sheriff's Office, Hillsborough County Schools, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, ISMG, Lake Placid Police Department, Lakeland Police Department, Largo Police Department, Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Pinellas County Schools Police, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Pinellas Park Police Department, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Sarasota Police Department, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, St. Petersburg Beach Police Department, St. Petersburg Police Department, Tampa International Airport Police, Tarpon Springs Police Department, Tech Data Corporation, Temple Terrace Police Department, Zephyrhills Police Department, Mark Hetzer, individual.

The Suncoast Crime Prevention Association, Inc. was established in 1976 by a handful of Crime Prevention Practitioners as an organization of law enforcement officers, crime prevention specialists, and business loss prevention and security experts dedicated to the ideas and promotion of crime prevention awareness throughout the Tampa Bay Area.



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Today, the association has grown and encompasses seven Bay Area counties with representatives from a majority of the law enforcement agencies in the area and is the oldest continuously established crime prevention association in the state.

Our goal is the education of our citizens and businesses in order to reduce crime. This goal is reinforced in the purpose of the organization as described in the By Laws and as follows:

- To develop and promote professional standards of ethics and competence in the field of crime prevention and promote crime prevention practice for the purpose of decreasing crime, the fear of crime and increasing the quality of life
- To review and discuss legislative bills regarding crime prevention and provide input to local and statewide legislators regarding bills
- To coordinate and maintain communications between law enforcement agencies and other interested parties regarding crime prevention
- To actively involve social service groups such as but not limited to non-profit organizations, commercial companies and law enforcement agencies in the prevention of crime.

Through the dedication of the Officers and Board of Directors and with the support of the members of the association, Suncoast has held monthly meetings throughout the year with the exception of January (Board Planning Month) and October (State Conference Month). In addition, the Board of Directors has met monthly with the exception of July (vacations) and October (State Conference).

Suncoast conducts monthly membership meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at various sites in the counties covered by the organization, with the exception of January, which is a Board of Directors planning month, and October which is the State Conference. Each meeting begins with the Pledge of Allegiance and follows a pre-printed agenda and Robert's Rules of Order. The meeting agenda includes approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting, a Financial report, Officers and Board of Directors Reports, Old Business, New Business and Announcements. During the Reports Section, agencies represented by the Officers and Board of Directors present current crime trends within their jurisdictions and solicit input from other members in attendance on these challenges. The meeting is scheduled for one hour, with the training session to follow each month.

It was a goal of the 2009 – 2010 year to raise attendance at monthly meetings and to provide training opportunities to agencies who may be struggling to provide this education. With more and more agencies dropping crime prevention units and moving this duty to patrol or community policing officers, the Suncoast Crime



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Prevention Association opted to provide economical training in various crime prevention topics for these agencies. For a nominal fee of \$25 per person, agencies could avail themselves of two hour training sessions once a month. If an agency participated in two trainings, they were considered members of Suncoast and received all additional two hour sessions at no charge.

Beginning in February, 2010, Suncoast began this aggressive monthly training program. To date the following training sessions have been presented:

February	Community Hero Program	Rhett Woehrle, Patty Ellsworth
	Safeguard Our Seniors	Linda Smart, E. Rock Roque
March	Narcotics and Drug Diversion	Det. Robert Osterland, Det. Ryan Kornacki, Pinellas County S.O.
April	Internet Safety	Officer Chip Wells, St. Petersburg P.D.
May	Frauds and Scams Roundtable	Sgt. Neil Scully, Sarasota County S.O.
June	Neighborhood Policing	Deputy Chris DePolis, Hillsborough County S.O.
July	Hurricane Safety Initiatives	Deputy Menendez, Hillsborough County S.O.
August	GTL Lazerphone System	Volunteer Judy Keefer, Polk County S.O.
September	Proving the Worth of Crime Prevention	Dr. Kim Loutzenhiser, Troy State University

In addition to these two hour training sessions, the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association presented an eight hour training session on the Essentials of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. This class was chosen due to a specific request from the Pinellas Park Police Department who recently dissolved their crime prevention unit in lieu of a Community Policing Unit designed to conduct directed patrols in selected zones around the city. This initiative was perfectly in line with the goals and objectives of the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association and was also an opportunity to raise much needed funds for the organization. This session, presented by Officer Chip Wells of the St. Petersburg Police Department, was well received with 20 attendees and netted approximately \$250. for the organization while providing a much needed educational opportunity.



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To further the education of Suncoast members, the association provides at least one tuition scholarship each year to the Florida Crime Prevention Association State Conference. Additional training schools may be requested by Suncoast members and approval for attendance is made by the Officers and Board of Directors. Upon approval for any training program, the Suncoast member is agreeing to present this training at some upcoming Suncoast meeting.

The geographical area covered by the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association is consistent with Region 6 of the Florida Crime Prevention Association. To this end, Suncoast supports the Region 6 representative by paying for his/her hotel room at each FCPA Board of Directors meeting throughout the year. For this privilege, the Region 6 representative makes a monthly report at the Suncoast meeting detailing the activities of the FCPA. In addition, through the President of Suncoast, the association has stepped up to work with the FCPA providing the contact for the site (Four Points Sheraton Chateau Elan and the Sebring International Raceway) which was ultimately chosen for the 2010 State Conference. Continuing this partnership, Suncoast is providing donated food and beverages for the Hospitality Room for both days of the Conference. Both the Highlands County Sheriff's Office and the St. Petersburg Police Department, member agencies of Suncoast, will also be presenting training sessions at the 2010 Conference.

Communicating the crime prevention message of Suncoast is mostly accomplished through our website, www.suncoastcrimeprevention.org. This site has been in existence for several years but was updated within this past year. Maintained by Treasurer Chip Wells, the site features crime prevention tips, information, links and history about the organization. In addition there is a members' area offering an array of PowerPoint presentations and information that members may access and use in their daily activities.

Most recently the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association has forged a partnership with Troy University to provide seminars and educational opportunities for our membership throughout the year.

In conclusion, we appreciate your consideration of the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association for Association of the Year honors. We continue to strive to serve our members through educational opportunities and dedication to improving the quality of life for the communities we serve.