
Hidden Lakes Teen Patrol

The Hidden Lakes Teen Patrol (HLTP), established in spring 2005, is a program offering teens, ages 15 and up, who live in Hidden Lakes the opportunity to work with the Keller Police Department (KPD) to make their community even safer. The program is designed to educate interested teens in the ways of law enforcement, only up to the point of identifying illegal or unsafe activities and how to properly report those activities to officers of the KPD.

Initial training will consist of six (6) hours of training, both some classroom but mostly ride-along segments, conducted by the KPD. Subsequent training will occur periodically thereafter on an as-needed basis. Background checks will be performed on all volunteers before training begins. HLTP volunteers will be provided a basic understanding and working knowledge of the importance of patrol, objectives of patrol, skills of observation, memory and suggested crime prevention and detection techniques. Often times, just “knowledge” of crime patrol programs active in an area is enough of a deterrent to criminals. Establishing “random” patterns of patrolling is another helpful deterrent.

By becoming additional “eyes and ears” for Hidden Lakes, the HLTP volunteers’ participation will help keep the crime rate in Hidden Lakes well below average, where it currently is. Several individual Villages of Hidden Lakes have organized Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs in the past year. The HLTP volunteers will work in conjunction with the planned activities / patrols of these organized groups. Both groups will be provided contact information for the principals of the other.

The Hidden Lakes Homeowners Association (HOA) will at all times assume primary responsibility for facilitating communication and activities between the various groups, who all have the same mission ...to keep Hidden Lakes a safe community in which to live. The HL HOA will enthusiastically assist in promoting the activities of any of the groups via its website, quarterly newsletters or weekly emailed E-News.

The HLTP volunteers will actively patrol ONLY the ten (10) villages of Hidden Lakes (and its amenities - pools, clubhouse, sand volleyball court, etc), often after dark when most crime occurs. They will be in "identifiable" vehicles, traveling in pairs (or more) with a cell phone, and a current Hidden Lakes Directory (for use of village maps and ability to call residents if potentially illegal/unsafe activity is witnessed at a particular address). A flashlight, note pad and pencil should always be in a vehicle on patrol. They will "check in" by cell with the KPD at the start of their patrol, so that their whereabouts are known at all times. It is the HLTP volunteer's responsibility to keep their auto insurance, driver's license and registration current.

The HLTP volunteers will further be identified by a T-shirt or cap with the HLTP logo. Khaki shorts or slacks are recommended for all HLTP volunteers. If for any reason a HLTP volunteer can no longer actively participate in the program, all HLTP clothing items will be returned. Under no circumstances shall any HLTP clothing items be sold or given away to anyone not associated with the HLTP program. They are meant to be worn only by those who have "earned" them.

HLTP volunteers will never possess any manner of firearm or weapon while on patrol. In nearly 100% of all possible instances will they not even be allowed to leave their vehicles

until instructed to do so by the police that they have just summoned to the scene of a potential crime.

HLTP volunteers will not consume intoxicants while on patrol nor patrol while under the influence of any intoxicant. They will not put themselves in a dangerous confrontation at any time, nor engage in pursuits or chases. They will obey the posted speed limits at all times. They will not enter private property without the permission of the owner.

HLTP volunteers will be courteous to all citizens and all other members of this program. Whether on patrol or not, their behavior must be of a high standard at all times, as they represent Hidden Lakes, the KPD and the City of Keller.

While patrolling Hidden Lakes, there may be opportunities to observe and identify other matters that are not necessarily related to criminal activity but which can be reported to assist the safety and appearance of our community in many other ways. Examples are code violations, fire hazards, abandoned property, illegal dumping, burned out City streetlights and/or malfunctioning or missing traffic control devices or warning signs. HLTP volunteers will be given a list of persons to whom to report such things.

While there is no maximum number of patrol hours allowed per month, there is a minimum requirement of at least one two-hour patrol monthly to maintain an active status. All efforts will be made to work around your school, work and vacation schedules. There will always be a designated HLTP volunteer who will in charge of setting up the schedule in advance, distributing it to

all volunteers via email, and be the contact person when rescheduling is necessary.

HLTP volunteers can earn Community Service credit for their hours donated to this program. They should supply a completed form provided by their club, school, or other organizational group to one of the program's mentors for verification and signature.

If interested, email HLTP@HLhoa.com.

Brittany Rutherford, Zach Gaydos, Kevin Bartlett, Co-Chairs
Dianne Knodel and Deborah Gatzke, Mentors
Janine Gaydos, Parent Advisors
Officer Scott Bradburn, KPD, Sponsor
