

San Dimas Civilian Volunteers/Volunteers on Patrol

The LASD Volunteer Program will be thirty-two years old this year. Sheriff Sherman Block initiated the volunteer group in 1980. By 1983 the group had spread county-wide, including Station 8 (San Dimas).

The first three Volunteers on Patrol (V.O.P.) were Lin Dixon, David Schulman, and Art Childers. Lin and Dave worked from 1983 to 1998, an amazing 15 years, and Art worked from 1985 to 2010, having volunteered for 25 years! Dave started with the Burglary Detail, working with victims and later counseled abused women regarding available resources, accumulating over 7,000 volunteer hours. The F.A.I.R. program, which stems from this volunteer work in 1983, is currently being revised. I think of these volunteers as the “Iron Men” who set an example that the volunteers of today strive to emulate.

The LASD Volunteer program has now grown to between 4300 and 5000 people. LASD Volunteers are recognized as the largest Sheriff’s Volunteer group in the world. Currently, there are 55 volunteers working the San Dimas Station. Their duties range from Bailiffs for parking and city code violations, F.A.I.R. program, Patrol, Posse, Search and Rescue, station duties, Clergy, Photography, and now C.E.R.T first responders. This conservatively translates to savings of up to \$45,000 per month for the City and the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department.

All Volunteers are now required to attend a Volunteer Academy and a Citizens Academy. These classes are held at the Star Center in Whittier or local city venues. Simulations of real life emergencies and driving classes are featured parts of these programs.

When asked “Why do you volunteer”? Many respond that they want to give back to their city and country. Some reply that they had a very positive experience with the Sheriff’s Department so that when it came time to select a volunteer organization, the choice was easy to make. A few said, “My spouse told me “I married you for better or worse, but not for lunch!”

Many volunteers have commented that after a short time in San Dimas, the group has become like an extended family. Whatever the reasons are for volunteering, we are like the United States Marines: “We are always looking for a few good people”.

Please contact Chris Mackenzie at 909 450-2763 if you would like to become a San Dimas station volunteer.

