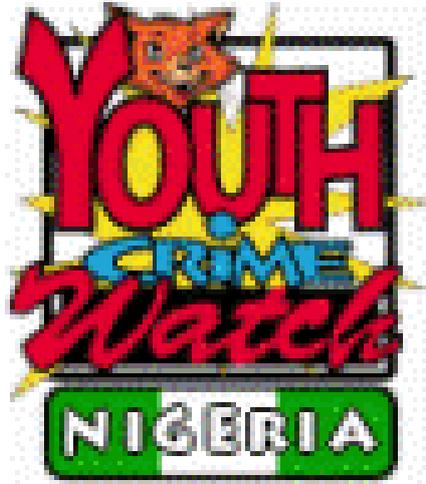


# **YOUTH CRIME WATCH**



## ***OF NIGERIA***

***(YCW NIGERIA)***

(A program of African Centre for Citizens Orientation)

## **PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

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### **Preface**

Our youth are one of the greatest forces and greatest hopes for reducing crime, drug abuse, and violence throughout the whole wide world. Youth Crime Watch is born out of the conviction that young people can be a potent force in bringing back sensibility, law and order, and constructive change to our social fabric, and that it makes sense to design a pragmatic method for them to do that. The beneficiaries of this Handbook should be, first of all, the youth who make up Youth Crime Watch, but they should also be the faculty and administration of our schools, the adult community leaders, the parents, families, friends, local institutions, and the nation and the world.

The public recognizes the scourge of crime committed by youth. Most fail to appreciate that youth are also victimized disproportionately, and that the threat of crime, violence, and drugs causes a significant percentage of youth in the world to change their habits each day. Youth Crime Watch stops the victimization that is one of the factors that lead to more crime, and Youth Crime Watch addresses the crime problems immediately.

This Handbook contains all the key elements to establish and maintain a Youth Crime Watch initiative. Current and forthcoming Youth Crime Watch manuals on specific program components provide greater detail. It is our intention that a person in the field with at least a basic knowledge or a serious desire to learn crime prevention can use this Handbook to establish and maintain a Youth Crime Watch site. However, formal training available through Youth Crime Watch of America provides the opportunity to develop site-specific plans, get answers to locally relevant questions, and plug into the Youth Crime Watch of America network.

Readers should note that most of the insights, steps, and practices advocated in this document are the result experiences of YCW School based sites, which account for about ninety percent of all YCW sites. Though the experience with community sites is considerably less, a great deal of knowledge has been developed in the last seven years, in community sites ranging from parks and recreation centers to faith-based groups and civic organizations. It should be remembered that the very first Youth Crime Watch groups in the late 2002 were community-based.

Like almost all crime prevention information, it is critical that the steps, insights, etc. provided here be implemented with discretion and care. Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria provides this information on a general basis upon the best practices and best current knowledge of the youth crime prevention field. In order to use this Handbook properly, anyone using this document will have checked local crime statistics, examined local crime situations, and checked with local authorities and crime prevention experts. These steps will help to insure that the Handbook is used correctly. We believe that we have written a Handbook that has solid and practical application. Such efforts are necessarily evolutionary, however, and we know that the next edition will be strengthened by the advice and experience of users, whom we invite to comment.

### **Founder's Message**

On Halloween night, 1974, a 12 year-old girl and her younger sister were just completing their "Trick or Treat" walk. As they approached their house, a man jumped from behind bushes and raped the girl. The description of the man matched that of a serial rapist wanted throughout Florida and dubbed "the Gentle Rapist".

The neighbourhood was outraged and we were fearful for our own families. We banded together at my house for a meeting with police officers who were providing training in home and self-protection as well as an update on the perpetrator. This meeting quickly led to the founding of the Miami-Dade County Citizens Crime Watch (CCW).

In 1977, the tragedy of the young girl was still in our minds and we created Youth Crime Watch, as a program of the CCW. The purpose of Youth Crime Watch was not only to teach our children how to protect themselves, but to utilize their unique abilities to prevent crime and drug abuse. It was set up to empower young people to run their own Watches with assistance from an advisor and a partnership with the police.

In 1979, because of the success of the neighbourhood Youth Crime Watch, the Miami Dade County Schools requested we set up the same program for students in schools. The schools program was well structured. In this contained environment we had the opportunity to apply the same principles of crime reporting, prevention training and watching out for neighbours, but much more effectively. We saw amazing results. The Watches spread to cities throughout Florida and the Nation. As a result, Youth Crime Watch of America was created in 1986 to take Youth Crime Watch nationally and internationally.

The challenge for our Youth Crime Watchers is to change the attitudes and atmosphere in their schools and neighbourhoods from negative to positive. Just as in adult neighbourhood watches, where the goal is to have everyone in the neighbourhood watching out, schools strive to have 100% of all students consider themselves "Crime Watchers" and participate in some way. In fact, the entire school or neighbourhood should be involved. Everyone should feel that stopping crime, drug abuse, violence and other negative behaviour is their responsibility and they must be alert and morally strong enough to do the right thing.

Youth Crime Watch is not just a program. It's a philosophy of watching out, helping out", positive peer pressure, respecting people. Taking responsibility for one's own surroundings and just plain good citizenship. We are proud of our Youth Crime Watchers, so full of altruism, energy and talent. They are determined to endow the future with a greater degree of compassion and love. With the vast communication opportunities now available to support a spirited youth movement, I feel confident we will find, in this millennium, a safer, more "neighbourly" world.

- **BETTY ANN GOOD, FOUNDER**, Chairman Emerita

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### **Acknowledgements**

In the production of this Youth Crime Watch Operating Handbook, we are indebted to the following persons who shared their experiences and time in order to reduce insidious afflictions of crime, drugs, and violence in our schools and communities and also to improve what has been written – Bishop I. O. Odeleye, current Parent Advisor of the Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria, AIG Udom Ekpoudom, Force Secretary, Abuja, Ray Nkemdirim, Director, Department of State Security (Oyo State Command), Mrs. M.O. Abu, YCW Advisor, Barrister Ranti Ajeleti, Com. Yomi Dawodu, and Chief (Mrs.) Bola Doherty, YCW Advisor and member, Yoruba Council of Elders, Mr. Moses Anegbode, Bashir Azeez, Commissioners of Police, Oyo State, and CSP Chris Ero, Special Advisor and O/C Monitoring Unit, Office of the Commissioner of Police, DCP Raphael Ibeazor, Oyo State, Divisional Police Officers and Area Commanders.

Special thanks to His Royal Majesties, Oba Joseph Adebayo Adewole, Ajero of Ijero Kingdom, Oba Adewale Osiberu, Elepe of Epe, Shagamu. Mr. Demola Bakare, Mr. Sesan Olukile, Mrs. Mary Omanayan, Directors and Officer at the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Bishop Kayode Williams, Mrs. Okunnore, Dr. Olaitan Olaofe, General Manager, CHI Limited Ajanla Farms, Mr. Dare D-Afeni, Media Consultant and YCW Special Advisor, Uncle Wale Ojo Lanre, NUJ Chairman Oyo State and government agencies. The contributions of these special leaders mentioned above included not only their work in their immediate community, but also service to humanity and their country as well as by working with young people and potential YCW Sites.

Casey Femi Soyode, YCW Pioneer Vice President, the Chairman for the Handbook revision who rewrote significant part of the handbook. The contribution to a number of important sections of these people are noted, Casey Supo Odeleye, Casey Ernest Onyeka, Ebonyi State Coordinator, Jeffrey Michael, Delta State Coordinator, Casey Niyi Dogunmu, Casey Gabriel Ojo, Casey Biodun Akintola, and Casey Yinka Oladapo.

These acknowledgements would not be completed without a final salute to those who have made possible a tried and tested program that serves lives and educational futures. This include, The Principals, the Proprietors /Proprietress, St. Teresa's College, George & Duke International College, Yejide Girls' Grammar School, Ikolaba High School, Bola Immaculate Group of Schools, all our sponsors – 7UP plc, Coca-Cola Plc, CHI Ajanla Farms, Nigeria Television Authority (Southwest Zone, Ibadan), All Nations Evangelical Church, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, adult and youth volunteers, youth organizations and organizers, benefactors, and of course the unnamed hundreds of thousands of Parents, law enforcement officers, educators, community leaders, advisory board members, executive board members, and the young YCW members in schools and communities across the federation.

To all who have contributed in so many ways, we offer you our thanks, and to you we dedicate this Handbook and all our future efforts.

***Casey Olugbenga Adeleye, National Coordinator***

## **Youth Crime Watch of America**

Youth Crime Watch of America, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing Youth Crime Watches across the United States and other countries. Unlike other programs, where well-intentioned adults attempt to solve youths' problems, Youth Crime Watch gives youngsters the tools and guidance necessary to actively reduce crime and drug use in their schools and communities. With hundreds of programs throughout the country, Youth Crime Watch programs are credited with significantly reducing crime and drug use since the early 1980s.

Youth Crime Watch started in Miami-Dade County, as a component of Citizen's Crime Watch. Because of the effectiveness of the Youth Crime Watch of Dade program, Youth Crime Watch of America (YCWA) was created to reproduce successful Youth Crime Watch programs throughout the country. YCWA has been recognized by Presidents Clinton, Bush and Reagan. Additionally, YCWA has received national honors, such as being named a U.S. Department of Education Exemplary Program of Excellence.

Through notable adult mentors and advisors, as well as through effective community collaboration, the YCW model open-handedly provides youth with the tools and guidance necessary to shape the basic principles of good citizenship, positive values, and self-confidence that underlie the YCW mission to aggressively and constructively counter crime, violence, and drug use.

Youth take an active role in addressing the problems around them because they are part of a community and everyone must be a part of the solution. Therefore, youth and adult advisors are trained in YCW methods; these youth take ownership of their own program for their school, neighborhood, public housing site, recreational center, or park. YCWA provides site with complete services for implementation, maintenance, and growth.

## **The Youth Crime Watch Network**

YCWA co-produces the National Crime Prevention Conference & International Forum with the National Crime Prevention Council. This extraordinary four-day conference is the nation's premier anti-crime training conference for youth and adults, and is held annually in the spring. YCWA members, as well as other concerned youth and adults across the country and abroad, have the opportunity to network and gather new and innovative prevention strategies from the top leaders in crime prevention and youth empowerment. Over 1,600 crime prevention advocates attend each year and do their part to create positive change in their schools and communities.

Aside from participating in over 60 workshops and professional development seminars, students and their advisors can attend any of five unique YCWA training sessions, which enable them to implement a Youth Crime Watch program immediately. Through the conference and/or YCWA membership, students and adults receive monthly YCWA updates and quarterly

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newsletters that keep members abreast of training sessions, special events, conference activities and speakers, new resource materials, and “hot” news from YCWA chapters across the country.

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## **Chapter One**

### **The Impact of Crime**

A crime is the commission of an act prohibited or the omission of an act required by the penal code of an organized political state. While crime is a national problem its control is primarily a responsibility of local units of government. An inability to prevent or deal effectively with acts of criminality has a number of negative consequences. When individuals commit violations and escape being processed through the criminal justice system, future illegal acts are encouraged.

An escalating crime rate requires that resources, which could be devoted to other social problems, be diverted to the crime-control effort, resulting in the further entrenchment of such ills as poverty, substandard housing, and inadequate medical delivery systems.

Too, as the crime rate increases, our system of government faces the real possibility of a crisis of confidence in its ability to maintain the welfare of the public. A final major impact of crime is upon the fabric of social relations and living patterns. People become fearful of strangers and of being on the streets after dark; homes become fortresses and families move to new locations in search of a secure life. A terrible reality is that until significant inroads are made in controlling crime the overall quality of life is lower than it could be.

Meanwhile, majority, if not all of criminal activities in our society are caused by young people. Crime committed in our community but not limited to violence, armed robbery, Rape, cybercrime, Internet scam, cultism, kidnapping, hostage-taking, militancy and terrorism.

It is the duty of everyone to find lasting solutions to the criminal acts and behaviours or togetherness face its consequences and have an unstable and unbalancing future. Crime affects everyone and you don't have to be the victim of crime.

### **History**

The increasing wave of crime couple with negative internet usage by young people in the last decade due to the continuous downturn in the Nation's economy and the moral decadence led to the creation of the Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria has called for a very urgent need to stem the negative trend. During this period a lot of innocent lives were lost during armed robbery, burglary or rape, due to the spiraling incidences of robbery associated with rape of the victims.

Thus many hypertensive cases were recorded and some sexually transmitted diseases are also transferred during the process. On the other hand the psychological trauma that is inherited by the victims gives a lot of worry to both the victims and their immediate families.

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Since cultism is spreading unabated, the use of drugs in schools (at all levels) due to its close usage by cultists has also sky rocketed. Many have even contacted the killer disease through the use of previously used sharp objects by druggists.

The apparent need for a training/enlightenment of youth who are ready instruments in the hand of politicians and our supposed leaders in different communities cannot however be over emphasized.

The joblessness of youths of differ ages and/or the restlessness of these cadre of the nations population has resulted according to our study in the indiscriminate use of aid invention of means of livelihood that are shameful to say the least.

All of these above and some others like it are what has propelled the pioneers of Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria to think of possibilities of ensuring that the negative trends are stemmed so that the present youths indeed becomes the real hope of the Nation positively.

Youth Crime Watch was established in 2002 when over fifty young people came together to address the growing rates of crimes, violence and drug in the city of Ibadan, Oyo State capital. This program has spread to other states of the federation including but not limited to Ondo, Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Ebonyi, Kwara, Imo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Kogi, FCT to mention but few. The successful pilot Youth Crime Watch program was located in St. Teresa's College, Oke-Ado, Ibadan, where it experienced much success. In the first year of the program's implementation, students helped to reduce their school crime problem. Equally important was the change in the students' attitudes. They were learning they could make a positive difference. Students were reporting crime, saw positive results and enjoyed significantly improved morale and school spirit.

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria was registered as a Non-Governmental Youth Organization in 2003 to support and continue the success of Youth Crime Watch by helping spread it throughout Oyo State and across the nation. In July 2010, ***the United Nations Committee on NGOs, i.e. Economic and Social Council granted a Special Consultative Status to the Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria.*** YCW Nigeria is a program of the African Centre for Citizens Orientation, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria.

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria brings youths of all backgrounds together to identify and correct problems unique to their schools and communities. The YCW program empowers youths to take an active role in addressing the problems around them. Youths take ownership of their own YCW program for their school, neighborhood, public housing site, recreational center/park etc.

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria (YCW Nigeria) assists youths in developing youth-led programs which can encompass up to nine key components that encourage "watch out" activities such as violence/crime reporting or youth

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patrols and "help out" activities such as conflict resolution, mentoring or mediation.

### **Vision**

To expand a youth-led movement to all areas locally, nationally, and globally involving all facets of the community in support of the altruistic motives of youth and to inspire a "watch out, help out" commitment resulting in a dramatic reduction of crime, violence, and drugs.

### **Mission**

To mobilize and equip a youth-led movement in schools and communities in partnership with public and private institutions to create a safer environment free of crime, violence, and illicit drugs in order to foster good citizenship throughout the world.

### **Goals**

1. To provide crime-free, drug-free school and community environments through a youth-led movement.
2. To instill positive values, foster good citizenship and build self-confidence in our young people.
3. To enable youths to become resources for preventing crime, drug use and violence in their schools and neighborhoods.

### **Values**

YCW Nigeria holds that all youths are valued individually and collectively and subscribe to the values of good citizenship, moral integrity, pride in selves and community, self-reliance, accountability, personal responsibility, and care and respect for others. YCW members assume proactive leadership roles involving peer influence and a "watch out, help out" philosophy.

### **Purposes:**

1. To establish Youth Crime Watch programs across the States of the Federation.
2. To give young people the tools and guidance necessary to actively reduce drugs, crime and violence in their schools and communities.
3. To provide leadership and guidance to other organizations working with youths to achieve the prevention of drugs, crime and violence.
4. To demonstrate to young people that togetherness, affiliations and partnerships are powerful responses to threats that require more than individual action.

### **Services Provided**

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria was established for the purpose of assisting schools and communities throughout the nation to reduce youth crime, drug abuse, and violence. This is accomplished through a variety of trainings and events, which include: weekend leadership retreats; implementation trainings, training of trainers, an annual Africa Regional Youth Crime Prevention and Development Conference, and, youth leadership conferences. YCW Nigeria provides personalized technical

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assistance, distributes current and effective crime prevention and education resources, and provides a network for YCW sites to access and form partnerships with other organizations with similar goals.

### **1. Training**

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria conducts national and local training that is tailored to the needs of individual school, community, city or state sites. Professional, nationally certified crime prevention practitioners conduct these trainings, which include:

- a. Implementation Training: teaches how to establish the Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria.  
Curriculum component include:
  1. Youth Crime Watch basics
  2. Local Assessment
  3. Youth/Adult Partnerships
  4. Roles and Responsibilities
  5. Youth Crime Watch Key Components
  6. Steps, Partners and Resources
- b. Training of Trainers: teaches how to train youth and adults to implement Youth Crime Watch.  
Curriculum component include:
  1. How to conduct training for establishment and maintenance
  2. Techniques, procedures and challenges for implementing crime reporting and youth patrols
  3. Trainers' Tricks of the Trade
- c. Youth Leadership Conference: enhances participants' leadership skills to organize and lead their YCW Core Group, schools and communities.  
Skills developed include:
  1. Team building
  2. Crime Awareness and Reporting
  3. Crisis Response
  4. Conflict/Anger Management
  5. Goal Setting
  6. Communication, including Public Speaking
  7. Problem Solving
- d. Weekend Leadership Retreat: motivates students to make their YCW program a success while building teamwork skills and trust through participation in enjoyable interactive activities.  
Curriculum components include:
  1. Youth Crime Watch philosophy
  2. Goals and Techniques
  3. Local Assessment
  4. Action Plan Development
  5. Trust Building
  6. Leadership and Team Building skills

## **2. Technical Assistance**

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria is dedicated to providing on-going support and aid to its existing and emerging YCW sites. This promotes continual success by providing the sites with the most updated and current resources and services. The assistance is accomplished through the use of census surveys and a database that contains contact information; demographic profiles; program content and training information. The technical assistance also includes telephone assistance and site visits, along with the development of detailed profiles of model sites and manuals on YCW components such as patrols and mentoring.

## **3. Newsletter**

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria produces “Citizens Alerts Magazine” three to four times a year. It is distributed to over 10,000 people and contains information on new resources, success stories, youth crime watch progress, fundraising, upcoming events, training, and much more.

## **4. Dissemination of Materials and Resources**

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria produces or supplies materials, such as manuals, monographs, videos, posters, T-shirts and other educational products, to aid youth and adults in their crime prevention efforts, ranging from starting to maintaining a successful Youth Crime Watch program.

## **5. Africa Regional Youth Crime Prevention & Development Conference**

The Africa Regional Youth Crime Prevention & Development Conference (Secure Africa) is Africa’s premier crime prevention event for youth and adults. The conference attracts over 200 participants from nearly every state and several foreign countries who come to exchange ideas and information about the most effective youth crime prevention methods. It is a chance for youth to develop the motivation and leadership skills needed to make a positive difference in their schools and communities. Please see [www.secureafrica.org](http://www.secureafrica.org).

## **6. Awards**

Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria presents awards to individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to youth crime prevention and youth empowerment. These awards are given annually at the Africa Regional Youth Crime Prevention & Development Conference. Winners receive a complimentary registration to the conference and recognition in the newsletter. Examples of award categories include Student of the Year, Advisor of the Year, Officer of the Year, School of the Year, Community of the Year, and Casey Awards for Law Enforcement, Volunteers, and Alumni.

## **7. Website**

Current and updated information about the organization and its happenings along with links to many other organizations with the same youth crime prevention goals can be accessed through the Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria website at [www.ycwnigeria.org](http://www.ycwnigeria.org). Site visitors can email Youth Crime Watch

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of Nigeria with questions and concerns. They can also register for events and fill out a request for free crime prevention information.

### **8. Social Media Forum**

The Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria has active social media platform and forum for all categories of people. It is designed to be a forum in which students and adults around the world can discuss youth issues and provide each other with the latest, most effective crime prevention methods and techniques. Visitors can post messages to be answered by other visitors. These can include upcoming events, pictures, success stories and other items visitors wish to share. Chat rooms where youth can have live, online conversations with other youth, adults and staff is also available.

Twitter: @ycwnigeria; Facebook: facebook.com/ycwnigeria

### **9. Collaborations and Partnerships**

Youth Crime Watch establishes partnerships with many national NGOs, corporate and governmental organizations with similar goals. Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria helps to facilitate these partnerships among organizations in order to provide the most effective support and assistance.

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## **Chapter Two**

### **Key Components**

Since no two schools or communities are alike, the Youth Crime Watch program offers a wide variety of components based on their “Watch Out, Help Out” philosophy. Sites are encouraged to adopt one or more of these components as a solution to the problem(s) unique to their area. Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria is committed to providing assistance and/or resource materials on all nine components.

The following outlines of Youth Crime Watch components are intended to give only overviews of the specific activities. Successful implementation in this manual, and the use of creative approaches and problem solving to meet the unique needs of different communities and situations.

#### **1. Youth Patrols**

Enlisting young people as active partners in building a safer school increases their commitment to prevention, provides additional help in spotting trouble or possible trouble, and reduces fear and crime. That’s why many schools have sponsored student patrols.

**The concept is simple:** young people work together in a formal structure, with help from adults, to:

- a. Patrol their campus in pairs or small groups.
- b. Act non-confrontationally to help maintain order.
- c. Enforce rules.
- d. Report crime or crime-threatening situations.

It is important to stress that patrol members are **not** tasked to apprehend criminals. Their role is to report incidents and information to the proper authorities who will determine the criticality of the situation and respond accordingly. Patrol members may serve as mediators with proper training. The patrol members may help with prevention education for students and staff. Many patrols in high schools assist with security at school events. Many take their names from the school’s mascot, which builds school bonds and strengthens school spirit.

There are at least six ways that student patrols strengthen the school’s security:

- Youth – both in and out of the patrol – take greater ownership of the school community because they see adults as willing to share the responsibility with them.
- Peers can be more effective than adults in working with other youth, especially with proper training.
- Patrol members help set standards and expectations for peers’behaviour.
- Patrol members, being trained observers, increase the safety of all in the school by noting and reporting not just specific crimes or rules

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violations, but problems that could lead to crime.

- An active, successful patrol encourages other students to report crimes and crime-in-the-making.
- A well-structured patrol, one that involves a wide cross-section of the student body, builds a sense of unity and community among students.

**Are patrols effective?** Youth Crime Watch schools at all levels – elementary, secondary and tertiary – started patrols because they saw the need and sustained them because they saw results. Patrols have stopped unauthorized visitors, including those with criminal intent, from coming onto school property. They've alerted authorities to impending fights that were nipped in the bud. Their presence has reduced fighting, vandalism, and parental worries. In short, patrols meet a wide range of real needs in all kinds of schools.

### **Putting Together the People, the Equipment, and the Training**

People, equipment, and training are essential to a successful patrol. There are four kinds of people who need to be involved:

- Top Administrators in the school, who should be involved with the advisor and the core Youth Crime Watch or similar group in defining the patrol's major duties and key working components. The principal and key assistant principals, the head of school security, and teaching staff should all understand and support the patrol. They should be familiar with its duties and concur in its responsibilities.
- The sponsor (or co-sponsor), who in general should be a police officer equipped by training and experience to teach and answer questions about patrol techniques and management. If the sponsor is not a police officer, the patrol should receive training from, and have an ongoing relationship with a police officer. The sponsor needs to have good skills in coaching rather than directing youth, because the patrols are designed to be youth-led. Of course, the coaching role becomes more involved the younger the patrol group. The sponsor should also know or become educated about crime prevention strategies.
- Enough qualified student members to do the jobs of the patrol. Patrol workloads need to consider students' other obligations, including classroom work, and to ensure that there is sufficient backup to meet commitments when people are ill or otherwise unable to take part. Either membership should be increased or responsibilities should be reduced so there is a match.
- A student body that understands the patrol's role and how it helps them, and sees the patrol as reflective of the school's population.

Along with the right people, a patrol needs some specific materials to do its job properly. Many of these items can be donated or loaned. Generally the equipment list includes:

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- i. Matching T-shirts for all members of the patrol. You can use Youth Crime Watch shirts or have special shirts made.
- ii. Matching dayglo orange safety vests for all members of the patrol who might be working in twilight or after dark.

**2. Anonymous & Safe Crime Reporting** – Young people can make a difference and reduce crime, violence and drug abuse by encouraging their peers to report and stop crime that is about to occur as well as provide information on crimes under investigation. This outline can help you start or improve this tested anti-crime tool.

Setting up a crime reporting system in your school or neighbourhood:

- Makes reporting easier and safer.
- Prevents crime by sharing information about potential problems.
- Helps authorities to solve crimes.
- Helps to make it clear that reporting crime is the right thing and responsible thing to do.

A good environment for reporting makes it harder for criminals inside and outside the school to succeed and contribute to a feeling of safety and security among all the members of the school and community. Young people understand the importance of reporting crime because they are victimized more than any other age group. They want safer schools and neighbourhoods, and if they know how to report effectively, they'll do it.

**What is crime reporting?** In Youth Crime Watch, we believe that:

- Reporting is the right thing to do.
- Reporting is a responsibility to peers and others.
- Reporting makes the school and community safer for everyone.

Reporting is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do because the young person who could be victimized might not be another student, it might be you. It is about taking care of your friends, your school, and your neighbourhood. The Youth Crime Watch approach to reporting relies on community and personal commitment to crime prevention and safety, not on cash rewards. Reporting prevents crime in at least four ways:

- It prevents incidents before they occur.
- It helps to pinpoint problems causing crimes.
- It makes it easier to find criminals and prevent them from committing more crimes.
- It creates an atmosphere that says "We Care".

## **Setting Up and Building Up Your Reporting System**

To start or strengthen a crime reporting system, you need five things:

- Committed Youth.
  - Adults who will work with youth and take action on reports.
  - A system for both anonymous and face-to-face reporting.
  - Education for youth and adults running the system on how to explain the system, handle reports and respond helpfully to victims.
  - Education for the school or neighbourhood about why to report, what to report, and how to report.
1. **Crime, Drug & Violence Prevention Education** – Youth Crime Watch is about young people getting involved in schools and communities to prevent crime, drug abuse and violence from occurring. Knowledge and information precede involvement and action, therefore, potential participants should be convinced of the value of the action they are asked to take. That is why crime, violence, and drug prevention education is a central formal component of Youth Crime Watch. Education should be ongoing in the core group meetings, in the assemblies and general meetings, and in action projects. Most Youth Crime Watch programs are not based on curriculum components in the school, school system or community programs, although they can be. This does not diminish the critical importance of a crime, violence, and drug prevention education effort. Education is the foundation of the Youth Crime Watch effort to change attitudes, knowledge, and behaviours.

### **Purposes of Education**

Remember that education is broader than the teaching component of Youth Crime Watch. Education may involve approaches and materials such as public service announcements, music, drama, posters, forums, and many other approaches that are not always seen as teaching.

There are many different reasons to educate; your plan for educating will be based in part on the nature of the educational objective you have.

- \* Youth Crime Watch may undertake crime, violence, or drug prevention to promote a single kind of action such as students never letting their book bags out of their immediate control or sight.
- \* Another purpose may be to get youth or others involved in a whole range of activities such as being a member of Youth Crime Watch.

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- \* In other cases, the goal may be to have those who are educated at an assembly appreciate something, such as the Youth Crime Watch leaders or programs.
- \* Yet another very important educational goal is to educate so that people understand a problem and are ready to take action to prevent or stop it. Such an example might involve a type of crime perpetrated by youth. The action taken can be to educate as to how to take immediate action against the crime and prevention efforts to reduce re-occurrences. We can prevent others from getting involved by finding out why and how young people got involved and developing appropriate prevention measures.
- \* Of course, a major purpose of education is to have those educated refine their skills. Sometimes the education (information and knowledge) precedes actual skills training.

### **Approaching to Educating**

There are many different approaches to educating the people YCW wants to reach, and these include many ways other than face-to-face presentations:

- Television or radio public service announcements.
- Flyers, bookcovers, bookmarks, or brochures mailed, handed out or made available at various locations.
- Music, rap, poetry, dramatic readings, drama, and dance.
- Forums, debates, discussions, and critical thinking groups.
- Surveys which educate both those doing the survey and those being surveyed.
- World Wide Web sites.
- Posters
- Hotlines (Telephone and computer)
- Games that have a purpose of teaching prevention message.
- Newspapers
- Tests or quizzes.
- Resource persons who bring experience and learning to the group to be educated.

All of these approaches are in addition to the traditional ones that have been used effectively:

- Classroom curriculum, either as a curriculum insert or as a freestanding course.
- Service learning, which engages youth in reflection through involvement in community service.
- Face-to-face presentations by Youth Crime Watchers for peers, younger youth, or members of the community.

**4. Conflict Resolution** – Is a formal name for settling problems in a way that lets you hold on to your dignity, while letting others save theirs as

well. Conflict resolution involves two people constructively working through a disagreement.

**Key steps to be taken to resolve a problem effectively and peacefully:**

- a. Decide what emotion you are feeling.
- b. Analyze the conflict
  1. What are your issues?
  2. What is your relationship with the other person?
  3. How does the conflict make you feel?
- c. Communicate
  1. Allow each person to have a chance to voice his or her perspective.
  2. Listen to the other person while they are speaking and do not interrupt.
- d. Identify the problem
  1. Clearly state what you think the problem is and allows the other person the same opportunity.
  2. State what needs to change.
- e. Search for solutions
  1. Brainstorm ideas together that would alleviate the problem.
- f. Choose the solution
  1. Evaluate which ideas would work the best to alleviate the problem.
  2. Make sure it is clear what both of you need to do.
- g. Closing
  1. Discuss what can be done differently to avoid the same and similar situations in the future.

**5. Mediation** – Involves an outside third party helping two individuals or groups work through a disagreement peacefully. Mediation can serve as a means of improving communication between and among students, teachers, administrators, officers and parents.

1. A strong mediation program consists of four components:
  - a. Classroom seminars designed to generate campus-wide interest in mediation and to recruit cases.
  - b. Training of those interested in becoming mediators.
  - c. Actual mediation of intra-student, intra-family, and student-teacher conflicts by those who successfully complete the training.
  - d. Follow-up on all mediated cases to assess compliance and to offer additional service.
2. Some critical thinking skills for mediation include:
  - a. Defining and clarifying the problem.
  - b. Judging information related to the problem; distinguish between fact and opinion.
  - c. Solving problems and drawing conclusions.

**What is Peer Mediation?**

As typically practiced in schools, Peer mediation is a process by which a couple of trained student mediators:

- a. listen to other students (whom we'll call "disputants" who would otherwise have received a disciplinary/punitive referral, and
- b. help the disputants create their own solutions to the conflict.

**What do mediators not do?**

Mediators don't provide the disputants with answers. They don't tell anyone what to do, or force anyone to apologize. They certainly don't punish. They don't report back to the teacher or the principal. They just carry out the process and complete some simple, confidential report forms for the mediation coordinator.

**Is Mediation Required?**

Mediation is a voluntary alternative to traditionally punitive consequences. We use it only when the offense is serious enough that, if ignored, it would seem about to create a referral, but it hasn't yet crossed that line. The intent of mediation rather than punishment is that disputants not only lose less class time, but also that they learn that they can handle most of the typical interpersonal problems on their own – without having to involve adults, and without getting themselves in bigger troubles. In a well-planned and implemented program, most disputants will come up with workable settlements. That doesn't mean perfect. It means that the disputants felt that the process was fair and reasonable, and that the solutions work for them

- 6. Peer & Cross-age Teaching** – Is the sharing of skills and knowledge with people who are either younger or older than the teacher. The age difference may be slight when students are teaching other students who are close in age or grade level. The age difference may be significant when high school students or at the other end of the spectrum when they are teaching senior citizens. The combination of who is teaching and who is learning may vary greatly and the teaching can be one-to-one or one to a group or group to group.

**How Does Cross-Age Teaching Prevent or Reduce Crime?**

1. Crime and drug prevention skills help students avoid crime and drug involvement.
2. Informed students can become advocates for crime and drug free schools.
3. Teaching academic subjects that are not directly related to crime improves performance, builds confidence and provides experience of success.
4. Improved skills and performance reduce the risk of a student becoming a dropout.
5. Teachers and students involved in cross-age teaching are using their time constructively and creatively, which lowers their risk of involvement in negative behaviours.

**What Will You gain From Cross-Age Teaching?**

1. A sense of belonging.
2. New friendships.
3. The opportunity to share special talents and interests.
4. See the excitement of students who master a subject or skill.
5. Build confidence and self-esteem.
6. Eliminate or reduce stereotypes, misconceptions or fears.
7. Learn about other cultures, perspectives, ages and groups.
8. The opportunity to be a role model for others.
9. The opportunity to learn about group dynamics, conflict management, collaboration, and problem solving.

**7. Mentoring -**

1. The main functions of mentoring are to:
  - a. Provide a structured, one-to-one relationship or partnership that focuses on the needs of the mentored participant.
  - b. Foster caring and supportive relationships
  - c. Encourage individuals to develop to their fullest potential.
  - d. Help individuals to develop their own vision for the future.
  - e. To be a strategy to develop active community partnerships.
  
2. Key steps in starting a mentoring program:
  - a. Create a statement of purpose and long-range plans.
  - b. Devise a recruitment plan for both mentors and participants.
  - c. Develop an orientation for mentors and potential participants.
  - d. Conduct an intense eligibility screening for mentors and participants.
  - e. Devise a training curriculum and train mentors and participants.
  - f. Create a matching strategy and criteria to pair mentors and participants.
  - g. Mentor progress.
  - h. Provide on-going training, materials and general support.
  - i. Evaluate

**8. Action Projects** – Is an activity planned by youth to help alleviate a problematic situation and/or develop the resiliency of the school or community against crime, drugs and violence. The planning process of projects builds leadership and team-building skills along with spirit and pride.

1. Key steps to planning and following through with an action project:
  - a. Assess the needs of your school or community. Decide what problems are present, which ones are of interest to your group and which ones you would like to help with.

## *Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria*

- b. Plan the event:
  1. Identify who the project will benefit.
  2. Establish goals and objectives of the project.
  3. Decide what strategies you will use to meet those goals and objectives.
  4. Establish deadlines and priorities.
  5. Assign roles and responsibilities for different tasks.
  6. Make sure the project can be evaluated.
- c. Find resources:
  1. Recruit volunteers.
    - Ask for help:
      - Stress benefits of the project.
      - Ask volunteers to ask friends.
      - Let people know how it will benefit them.
      - Advertise
      - Provide volunteers with appropriate recognition and thanks.
      - Relate the activity to a special interest of a group.
  2. Finding materials:
    - Talk with school officials, local law enforcement agencies and non-profit organizations that support your cause.
    - Solicit local businesses to provide monetary or material donations for the event.
    - Fundraisers
- d. Follow through with your project:
  1. Provide training for volunteers.
  2. Hold the event or activity.
- e. Evaluate:
  1. Survey beneficiaries and participants for knowledge, attitude and behaviour changes.
  2. Determine whether or not the project met its goals and objectives.

**9. Bus Safety** – The main purpose of this component is to stress the importance of school and community bus safety and report serious crime if it occurs on the bus. While the driver is responsible for keeping everything under control, there may be some things that escape the driver's attention. This is when Youth Crime Watch can help without undermining the driver's authority.

1. Key steps in starting a bus safety program:
  - a. Hold a meeting of all school bus riders and discuss the following:
    1. Right and responsibilities of students that ride the bus.
    2. Unsafe actions on the bus where you think Youth Crime Watch can help.

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- b. Elect or appoint a small core group to work on suggested solutions.
- c. Ask your transportation department officials to speak to the group on bus safety.
- d. Explore forming a partnership with the transportation department to help your school with any serious problems that the driver does not see.
- e. Select a method to report incidents to school officials.
- f. Select activities that you may want to have throughout the year in order to stress the importance of bus safety.
- g. Start planned activities and hold follow-up meetings to discuss old and new business.

To learn about how other school and community sites developed and incorporated these components into their Youth Crime Watch programs, contact the Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria office for a copy of the site profiles and success stories book.

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## **Chapter Three**

### **Different Roles in the Youth Crime Watch Program**

#### **Youth Roles**

Youth Crime Watch is based on the belief that safety and security of the school or community is the responsibility of everyone and that everyone ought to watch out and help out to achieve that security. The fact that everyone can do something does not mean that everyone does the same thing.

Youth Crime watch takes advantages of the diverse natural talent that exists among the youth, including them in roles that have worked in Youth Crime watch for schools and communities over a generation.

Though based on a belief that all school or community members should be actively involved, a Core group of young leaders work with their adult advisor to:

- a. Help start a Youth Crime Watch.
- b. Pinpoint the problems and/or opportunities that exist in the school or community that will be the focus of initial action by the Youth Crime Watch group.
- c. Decide on the best methods to take advantage of positive opportunities or to alleviate problems.
- d. Promote and publicize the program and select activities and action projects.
- e. Keep the program active and effective.
- f. Enlarge the program by identifying an Expanded Core group (other members) and finding ways to involve the entire school or community.

#### **Advisors' Roles**

The advisor is the "Spark Plug" of the program and must guide the Youth Crime Watch members in all activities.

The Advisor must:

- a. Help the youth who want to start a YCW program prepare a proposal to submit to the school administration or community leaders to seek support for the program and their goals.
- b. Support the Core group members by guiding them and making suggestions that will benefit the group.

## *Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria*

- c. Help student work with the school administration, private and public businesses and organizations for fundraising to support activities the students are involved in.
- d. Build partnerships with local law enforcement and businesses.
- e. Help to write grants for financial support for the club activities.
- f. Conduct ongoing training to include crime prevention, crime reporting, radio procedures, school safety and other components.
- g. Act as a chaperone along with enthusiastic parents on field trips.
- h. Organize award and other recognition ceremonies to motivate students to continue their fight against crime, drugs and violence.

### **Principal Roles**

The principal is an integral part of the Youth Crime Watch program! Without his or her endorsement of the program, it would not exist. The principal should:

- a. Support the goals and ideas of the program 100%.
- b. Show support of the students involved in the program by giving them the opportunity to come up with ideas that could be implemented to make the school a safer place.
- c. Assist in providing startup funding to enable the club to purchase T-shirts, radios and anything necessary to get the program off the ground.
- d. With the approval of the school board, incorporate YCW into School's curriculum.
- e. Appear at ceremonies recognizing the students for their hard work.
- f. Act as a resource, linking the students with important people such as religious, business, and community leaders that can be of assistance.

### **Program Benefits**

#### **For Youth**

- \* Helps them stay safer
- \* Increases self-esteem and confidence
- \* Improves leadership and organizational skills
- \* Increases sense of accountability and motivation
- \* Enables them to learn to teach others
- \* Gains program development and management skills
- \* Develops closer bonds with school and community

## *Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria*

### **For Principal**

- \* Reduce violence, drug use, and crime
- \* Offers cost-effective strategies to improve school climate
- \* Promotes safe and productive learning environment
- \* Strengthens school commitment and spirit
- \* Provides skill-based opportunities for learning and development

### **For Law Enforcement Officers**

- \* Provides early warning of possible crime problems
- \* Fosters skills and attitudes that deter crime
- \* Promotes safe and anonymous crime reporting
- \* Strengthens youth-police relationships
- \* Increases coverage through patrols and crime reporting at little or no cost

### **For Community**

- \* Harness additional volunteers for community improvement
- \* Establishes that youth can be part of the solution to community problems
- \* Taps energy and enthusiasm of youth as a community asset
- \* Builds good citizenship attitudes and behaviours
- \* Enhances quality of life for all community residents

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## **Chapter Four**

### **Getting Started**

#### **Getting Started in Schools**

##### **A. Getting Started Step-by-Step**

A new Youth Crime Watch program needs an advisor (a “Sparkplug”) to do the startup work. A sparkplug is usually affiliated with the school being proposed for the Youth Crime Watch program, someone such as a teacher, guidance counselor, administrator, school resource officer, or even a concerned member of the community; a parent or a member of the local Neighbourhood Watch organization. The younger the student age groups, the more structure and guidance they need from the advisor.

The instructions that follow are for advisors/sparkplugs. The reason the Youth Crime Watch advisor is called a “sparkplug” is because experience has demonstrated that every school has at least one adult who stands out, works well with students and is willing to go a little further to help prevent crime in their school.

##### **1. General Checklist**

The following list of actions can be used to form a checklist for initiating a Youth Crime Watch program.

- a. *Meet with school officials to obtain their approval to begin a Youth Crime Watch program. Unless you as the Youth Crime Watch program originator are the principal or top school official, it is necessary to meet with school officials to get approval to start a Youth Crime Watch program.***

Ask the principal to consider including faculty members and student leaders in this meeting. Take this Handbook and other Youth Crime Watch materials with you. You may want to bring Youth Crime Watch representatives, police officers, and others who would be interested in seeing Youth Crime Watch established at the school.

Describe the steps you will take to set up the program and what you are asking of the principal and school administrators. Emphasize the student-run aspects of Youth Crime Watch, the level of student involvement and the results of youth participation.

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Discuss the value of after school activities and the positive options and alternative activities. Consider showing the Youth Crime Watch video. Ask the principal to consult with faculty members and staff to appoint a Youth Crime Watch advisor.

**b. *Determine who the sparkplug will be.***

In collaboration with the principal, look for that special individual (every school has one) who will be the Youth Crime Watch sparkplug. Keep in mind that this person must be an energetic person with enthusiasm for Youth Crime Watch sparkplugs may be eligible for a teacher's supplement.

**c. *Determine the major issues and concerns facing the school.***

Conduct a meeting of the Youth Crime Watch advisor, the principal, and law enforcement officer to determine the major issues and concerns facing the school.

**d. *Publicize the program throughout the school.***

Make sure everyone in the school knows that a Youth Crime Watch program is beginning. Give all chance to join early. Organize a means for students to sign up; send explanations of Youth Crime Watch to teachers and ask for their participation.

**e. *Select the students who will form the Youth Crime Watch Core Group.***

There are several ways you can do this. You may ask the teacher of each class to recommend two students. You can make a request on the school PA system for students to sign up. You can send out notices and distribute applications asking students to come and interview to join Youth Crime Watch as if they were interviewing for a job. You may come up with your own method, by talking to school organizations such as student government clubs, the honour society, class boards, service clubs, service patrols, the drama, leadership and special-interest clubs. Explore assorted places you might expect to find the bright, energetic, serious, service-minded students you want for the Youth Crime Watch club. In some schools, the advisor, Vice Principal, and other Youth Crime Watch school staff hold interviews and select the Core Group youth for year one. In elementary schools Youth Crime Watch ordinarily includes from 6 to 50 "core" students. It's important that this group be diverse, representative a good cross-section of all the students in the school, and free of a concentration of any factions.

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f. ***Hold the first organizational meeting.***

Set the time and date and hold the first Youth Crime Watch organizational meeting. Many school principals will approve of this being done during school hours, but otherwise you may hold it before school, at lunchtime or during after school hours. The two essential items on this agenda will to discuss what the school's crime and drug problems are and to announce or discuss the election of Youth Crime Watch officers. Next, it is recommended that you accomplish a minimum of the following throughout the school year.

- Conduct a Youth Crime Watch installation ceremony.
- Establish a tip-reporting and general suggestion box.
- Hold weekly, bi-weekly or monthly meetings.
- Select startup activities.
- Form committees to carry out the activities agreed on.
- Make a calendar of startup events.
- Set the time and place for each Youth Crime Watch meeting.

g. ***Organize and present the Main Event Assembly***

Hold the main event assembly or general student body meeting to inform the students and teachers about Youth Crime Watch, the purpose and function of the program and how they can participate. Consider making applications to the Youth Crime Watch core group available.

h. ***Tell the adult community that Youth Crime Watch is starting.***

Use posters, flyers, and personal contacts to inform the adult community surrounding the school that a Youth Crime Watch program is starting. Appeal to local corporations and businesses, Parent-Teacher Associations, and civic clubs (Rotary Optimists, Lions, etc) to become sponsors of Youth Crime Watch. They can consider providing donations in the form of money or goods such as Youth Crime Watch T-shirts, buttons, badges and banners, and materials for community service projects.

i. ***Obtain sources of crime prevention information***

## *Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria*

Call local law enforcement agencies to see if they can provide you with materials, guest speakers, and liaison personnel. Call local service agencies for drug prevention materials. Compile lists of reference information, authorities, and community service resources.

j. **Select the ongoing events**

These events may include regularly held educational programs, special events and contests. The advisor can help them to select and conduct a series of informative, educational, training, and stimulating special events and community service projects to advance the goals of the Youth Crime Watch program.

k. **Consider becoming part of Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria**

When you have organized your program, you are invited to become part of the nationwide network of Youth Crime Watch groups associated with Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria. By joining Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria you will benefit from the exchange of information and ideas in the newsletter. You will also be made aware of conference happenings and how to keep your Youth Crime Watch program alive, innovative, and exciting.

l. **Maintain contact with Youth Crime Watch of America Headquarters.**

Youth Crime Watch of America wants to be able to share ideas with you and learn of your activities, accomplishments, and problems. Of particular interest in the numbers of schools, students, and other participants you have, and any reports and articles that reveal statistics and stories on how your Youth Crime Watch program is functioning for you. This kind of information is needed to recognize you for efforts and to compile reports to send to others. Of course, you are encouraged to call any time with questions or requests for advice or assistance.

### **Getting Started in the Community**

Community based YCW programs may be in rural and suburban areas of single-family homes, in urban, multi-family and high-rise environments, or in local or regional parks and marine facilities. The key elements remain the same, adult guidance with strong youth involvement and leadership to reduce crime, violence and drug abuse in the targeted environment.

### **Steps to Start the Program**

a. **Establish the NEED for a Youth Crime Watch.**

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b. ***Determine who the Sparkplug/Advisor will be***

In collaboration with the Housing or park Director and local law enforcement agency, look for the special individual (every community has one) who will be your Youth Crime Watch Sparkplug/Advisor. Keep in mind that this person must have a special rapport with young people and must have their trust. The sparkplug must be energetic person with abundant enthusiasm for the Youth Crime Watch concepts and program. In communities, housing complexes and parks with a police substation, an officer may be the advisor. In all situations police officers must play an important part in Youth Crime watch.

c. ***Meet with housing and park officials, community leaders, such as clergy, neighbourhood and business leaders, residents, and law enforcement representatives to begin to develop a Youth Crime Watch partnership.***

Ask the Housing or parks Director to include parents in this meeting. Take this Handbook and other Youth Crime Watch materials with you. It is important to bring Youth Crime Watch representatives, police officers, and others who would be interested in seeing Youth Crime Watch established in the community..

Describe the steps necessary to set up the partnership, what you will do, and what the housing and/or parks Director can contribute. Emphasize the youth-run aspects of Youth Crime Watch and how a partnership will make housing and/or park officials and the entire community more successful in their work. Ask the Housing and/or parks Director to consult with parents and members of the community to support the Youth Crime Watch initiative, particularly the Advisor/Sparkplug.

d. ***Determine where meetings will be held. Make location convenient for residents, but be sensitive to the personal security concerns they may have as this crime fighting initiative is first developing.***

Your housing and park Directors will be able to offer suggestions for a place to meet. You might select a vacant home, an unused Laundromat, a community center, an unused storage building, or possibly someone's home. Unused buildings that are safe and secure offer a great opportunity for young people to get excited about forming their own partnership in their own surroundings. It gives them ownership in the program and helps get the program off to a great start.

e. ***Publicize the program throughout the school.***

Make sure everyone in the community or neighbourhood knows that a Youth Crime Watch program is beginning. Give all chance to join

## *Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria*

early. Organize a means for young people to sign up; send explanations of Youth Crime Watch to homes in the area and ask for their participation.

f. ***Select the young people who will form the Crime Watch partnership.***

There are several ways this may be accomplished. You can send out notices to each home inviting everyone to come. This will enable you to let the parents know of your intentions and ask their support. (If you offer popular refreshments, attendance will be enhanced). If you use this approach, you may later want to divide the young people into appropriate age groups.

Select young people who will form the Crime Watch Partnership. Example: young people ages 7-13 years old meet together one evening and young people ages 14-18 years old meet together at a different time. You may want to ask for a young person and an adult representative from each group of homes to attend your first meeting depending on the size of the community, the housing complex or park. You may want to send out notices asking young people to come and interview for the Crime Watch partnership (as if they were interviewing for a job). It's important that this group be diverse, a good cross-section of all the young people in the community and free of a concentration factions.

g. ***Hold the first organizational meeting.***

Set the time and date and hold the first Youth Crime Watch organizational meeting. You may hold it after school hours, any weekday or on weekends. The two essential items on this agenda will to discuss what the neighbourhood crime and drug problems are and to announce or discuss the upcoming election of Crime Watch Partnership officers. Some suggestions are:

- Conduct a Crime Watch installation ceremony.
- Establish a tip-reporting and general suggestion box.
- Identify the primary problems facing the community.
- Select startup activities.
- Form committees to carry out the activities agreed on.
- Make a calendar of startup events.
- Set the time and place of the next Crime Watch Partnership meeting.

h. ***Tell the adult community that Youth Crime Watch is starting.***

Use posters, flyers, and personal contacts to inform the adult community surrounding the school that a Youth Crime Watch program is starting. Appeal to local corporations and businesses, and civic clubs (Rotary Optimists, Lions, etc) to become sponsors of Youth

## *Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria*

Crime Watch and to provide donations in the form of money or goods such as Youth Crime Watch T-shirts, buttons, badges, banners, discounts at youth-type activities, and other articles. Have the youth promote participation through community meetings, churches, media, community bulletin boards and talk shows.

i. ***Obtain sources of crime prevention information***

Call local law enforcement agencies to see if they can provide you with materials, guest speakers, and liaison personnel. Call local service agencies for drug prevention materials. Compile lists of reference information, authorities, and community resources, and community health programs that are available.

j. ***Select the ongoing events and activities***

These events may include regularly held educational programs, special events and contests. Some of these activities should be fun. They can reward positive action by your Youth Crime Watch members.

k. ***Consider becoming part of Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria***

When you have organized your program, you are invited to become part of the nationwide network of Youth Crime Watch groups associated with Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria. By joining Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria you will benefit from the exchange of information and ideas in the newsletter. You will also be made aware of conference happenings and how to keep your Youth Crime Watch program alive, innovative, and exciting.

l. ***Maintain contact with Youth Crime Watch of America Headquarters.***

Youth Crime Watch of America wants to be able to share ideas with you and learn of your activities, accomplishments, and problems. Of particular interest in the numbers of schools, students, and other participants you have, and any reports and articles that reveal statistics and stories on how your Youth Crime Watch program is functioning for you. This kind of information is needed to recognize you for efforts and to compile reports to send to others. Of course, you are encouraged to call any time with questions or requests for advice or assistance. It is recommended that you use the YCW logo and/or Casey on all materials used for publicity, information and education.

**APPENDIX**

**YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF NIGERIA  
RULES & REGULATIONS AGREEMENT**

Please read the following rules and regulation, and sign your name below. Your signature indicates your acceptance and dedication to follow the policies of the Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria.

1. A Youth Crime Watch member must show respect and courtesy to elders and peers at all times.
2. A Youth Crime Watch member should portray leadership at all times and always offer a helping hand to anyone who needs it.
3. Youth Crime Watch members must show respect to their elected officers and abide by their decisions especially during scheduled meetings.
4. Youth Crime Watch members DO NOT argue in front of others, especially non-members. This minimizes criticism of the program and members.
5. Youth Crime Watch members must maintain a GPA of \_\_\_\_\_ or better.
6. Youth Crime Watch members must NOT be members of any organizations that violate the principles or laws of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, State Government or any other organizations.
7. Any member apprehended or identified with weapons or illegal drugs will be immediately suspended from all activities and dealt with according to Community/School Board policy and criminal statutes.
8. Youth Crime Watch members DO NOT confront persons when incidents occur on campus. They are to report incidents to the administration, faculty, school security or the Youth Crime Watch Coordinator.
9. Youth Crime Watch members WILL NOT harass nor discriminate against any persons because of race, colour, creed, national origin, sex, religion, mental or physical handicap or sexual orientation.
10. Youth Crime Watch members must be above reproach at all times because they are leaders, will be involved in many high profile activities and will be closely scrutinized by the student body, faculty and community.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF NIGERIA  
RULES OF CONDUCT**

Please read the following and sign your name below. Your signature indicates your acceptance and dedication to follow the rules of conduct for the Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria.

1. Use of drugs and alcohol is not permitted.  
Members will be drug-free at all times.
2. No smoking allowed.  
Members will be tobacco free at all times.
3. Members that are participating in an activity supervised by an Advisor cannot leave the activity without permission from that advisor.
4. Members must display good moral behaviour at all times.
5. Do not wear clothing with indecent messages, satanic sayings, pornographic pictures or other inappropriate images or text.
6. Members will wear clothing that is appropriate, proper and decent in terms of fit and coverage.
7. Members will wear clothing that communicate a positive message and image.
8. There shall be no hurting of another person physically or emotionally.
9. There shall be no use of vulgar or obscene language.
10. Members will treat others respectfully at all times.
11. There will be no screaming or inappropriate behaviour for students or young people who are members of Youth Crime Watch.
12. Members will resolve their conflicts through mediation or with the help of an advisor.
13. Youth Crime Watch members will report to class on time.

**PLEDGES**

1. I pledge to be truthful, fair, honourable, and helpful to the victims of crime.
2. I pledge to do what I can to stop crime against students/youths.
3. I pledge to help other students/youths.
4. I pledge to keep confidentiality in order to protect victims.
5. I pledge to follow the rules of Youth Crime Watch.
6. I pledge to make our school and community a clean and safe environment.
7. I pledge to make our country a better place to live, to learn and to grow without fear.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Legal Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria*

**YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF NIGERIA**  
**PARENT PERMISSION FORM**  
*Under 18years of age*

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I, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
give permission to my child to become a member of Youth Crime Watch of  
Nigeria

I understand that before any child goes on field trip, they will be trained and  
must have my signature on file giving them permission to do so.

I will not hold Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria or  
\_\_\_\_\_ responsible if my child  
does not follow the rules and/or requirements of Youth Crime Watch of  
Nigeria.

If any Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria rules and requirements are not met, I  
understand that my child may be removed from membership of Youth Crime  
Watch of Nigeria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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For Official Use Only

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Designation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF NIGERIA  
MEMBERSHIP IDENTITY CARD POLICIES**

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Please read the following policies, and sign your name below. Your signature indicates your acceptance and dedication to follow the policies.

1. That I shall obey the rules and regulations of the Organization.
2. That I shall never transfer the Membership Identity Card to other person.
3. That the Membership Identity Card remains the property of the Organization.
4. That I shall wear the Membership Identity Card during meetings and events.
5. That I shall not be permitted or allowed participating in sessions or any occasion that concerns the Organization whenever I fail to wear the Membership Identity Card.
6. That I shall never use the Membership Identity Card in any illegal or criminal acts.
7. Upon my suspension in the Organization, the Membership Identity Card shall be withdrawn.
8. That my identity Card expires as stated on the card.
9. That I will return my expired ID card before I can be issued new one.
10. That with this Membership Identity Card, I will not violate the principles or laws of the constitution of the Organization and of the Country.
11. In case of loss, the Authority of the Organization must be informed and that an affidavit shall be sworn to at the Law Court and be presented to the Authority of the Organization for further actions.

**FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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For Official Use Only

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Designation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF NIGERIA**

**TO BE COMPLETED (FILL IN BLOCK LETTERS)**

**Full Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gender: M/F Religion** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Town** \_\_\_\_\_ **LGA** \_\_\_\_\_

**State of Origin** \_\_\_\_\_

**Present Occupation** *(If Student, write  
"Student")* \_\_\_\_\_

**Present Employer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of Present**

**Employer/School** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Office Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Legal Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you want to join this club?
2. Do you agree to abide by the rules of the Youth Crime Watch Club?

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Admission Officer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_