



# BUILDING BRIDGES

Between the South San Francisco  
Police Department and the Community

No single factor has been more crucial to reducing crime levels than the partnership between law enforcement agencies and the South San Francisco community we serve. In order for law enforcement to be truly effective, police agencies cannot operate alone; they must have the active support and assistance of citizens and communities.

Read more about all of the programs our South San Francisco Police Department is involved in with our community.





**BASEBALL WITHOUT BORDERS** - Baseball Without Borders is a nonprofit organization that works with children with dreams in baseball. Baseball without Borders provides new and used baseball and safety equipment to International baseball programs around the world in communities that cannot afford to purchase the equipment needed to play. The South San Francisco Police Department has organized collections of equipment and makes annual donations to the organization.



**BEAT THE HEAT** - This is a fundraising event for our Explorer Post that is held at K-1 Speed in South San Francisco. The program invites community members to come out and race against police officers and members from the police department. It gives our community an opportunity to interact with our police personnel, while out of uniform, and in a general public setting. Races are offered at discounted rates and a percentage of the funds are donated to the Explorer Post.

**BICYCLE RODEO/HELMET GIVEAWAY** - The South San Francisco Police Department works with the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and hosts this annual event. It's an event that teaches children about bicycle safety and police issues helmets to those in need. Our bicycle officers set up cone patterns and teach our community children how to maneuver safely on their bicycles and how to obey the rules of the roadways.



**CITIZEN RIDE-ALONG** – The South San Francisco Police Departments provides residents, community members, and citizen academy attendees an opportunity to go on a “ride-along” with our patrol officers. This allows for an opportunity to get to know our officers, see the work they do on a day-to-day basis, and ask any questions they may have in connection with current policing efforts.

**CITIZENS' ACADEMY** – This academy provides our residents a chance to get an inside look at the South San Francisco Police Department, how it functions, how it trains its officers, what its values are, and what it offers the residents of our community. This 12-week program meets for 2.5 hours each session, once a week.

**COFFEE WITH A COP** - This annual event is held at a local coffee shop in South San Francisco. The Chief of Police and/or his designee remains at a coffee shop during a designated date and time, and the community is invited to attend to ask questions and have general conversation with our department leaders.



**COPS FOR KIDS** – This is an annual event that the South San Francisco Police Department attends in the City of Pacifica each year. It provides an opportunity for the community to come out to a day filled with events for children. Children and community members get to interact with our officers throughout the day.

**DOG WALKER WATCH PROGRAM** – This program invites anyone who regularly walks their dog(s), or people who are out in the community on daily walks, to participate in a crime awareness program. This program is designed to get people throughout our community to assist the Police Department as the extra “eyes and ears” of our City. The Dog Walker Watch Program focuses on observing and reporting suspicious activity while walking pets around neighborhoods, guidance for personal and pet safety, and the importance of constant communication between the community and the Police Department to help foster relationships and deter crime.





**DONATION COLLECTIONS FOR LOCAL DISASTERS** – The South San Francisco Police Department organizes “drop off” locations for local community members after many of the Bay area-wide natural disasters. The collections make it possible to drop off several box-truck loads of goods to the victims that are affected by natural disasters.



**EVERY 15 MINUTES** – Every 15 Minutes is a program that offers a real-life experience without the real-life risks, by simulating a fatal drunk driving collision using role players from the current student body at the local high schools. Every 15 Minutes is designed to dramatically instill teenagers with the potentially dangerous consequences of drinking alcohol and texting while driving. This program challenges students to think about drinking, texting while driving, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved. This program is presented to the junior and senior student body at South San Francisco High School and El Camino High School, rotating between the two schools each year.



**EXPLORER POST 850** - Our Explorer Cadets learn about different jobs in law enforcement while proudly helping their local community and gaining new friends. The program teaches leadership skills, teamwork, discipline, the importance of civil-service, and encourages positive relations between police and local youth. The Explorer program is for youth between the ages of 15-20 years old.



**GATEPATH ACADEMY** – This academy is a six-week long program that connects those with special needs in our community with the police department. Members of the South San Francisco Police Department teach the students enrolled in the “Gatepath” program about personal safety, making good choices, and how to solicit emergency services when needed.

**G.R.E.A.T. (GANG RESISTANCE EDUCATING AND TRAINING)** - The South San Francisco Police Department implemented this program in 2005. GREAT was designed to help prevent elementary and middle school students from getting involved in gangs, and to mold them into becoming responsible members of their community. Some of the main goals of the GREAT program are to deter youth from delinquent behavior and violence. GREAT also teaches students how to set goals for themselves, learn how to resolve conflict, shows them how to resist peer and gang pressure, and explains how gang activity impacts the quality of their lives. Each student who completes the GREAT program is presented with a Certificate of Graduation. The School Liaison and C.O.P.P.S. (Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving) officers teach the curriculum in South San Francisco's elementary and middle schools.

**HISPANIC COMMUNITY ACADEMY** – This academy has the same model as our Citizens’ Academy, but is tailored for our Spanish-speaking residents. Most instructors in this course are Spanish-speaking members of the South San Francisco Police Department. This course was developed 24 years ago and was the first of its kind in San Mateo County.

**HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE** – Every year, the South San Francisco Police Department works jointly with the Fire Department and the YMCA on a toy collection for our local families in need of financial assistance. The toy collection serves nearly 500 families each year.





**HOME SECURITY ASSESSMENTS** – With the rise in residential burglaries over the years, the South San Francisco Police Department offers a home assessment service for security at no cost. Officers go to homes, conduct a “walk around”, and make security suggestions surrounding security cameras, lighting, tree/bush trimmings, locks, etc.



**HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM (HOT)** – Our Homeless Outreach Team consists of two South San Francisco police officers (typically Downtown Bike Patrol) who work in collaboration with several San Mateo County agencies and nonprofit organizations to secure permanent housing for our SSF homeless population. These officers personally know a majority of our homeless population and work with them on a daily basis.

**IDENTITY THEFT/SCAM PRESENTATIONS FOR THE ELDERLY** – Each year our officers work with our elderly care and retirement facilities and give presentations on how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft and/or current “scams” that may be trending. Our presentations reach hundreds of elderly folks in our community each year.



**K-9 DEMONSTRATIONS** – The police department’s K-9 team organizes and presents multiple K-9 demonstrations each year to hundreds of students and community members.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN** - The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is a campaign to benefit the Special Olympics. It began in 1981 in Wichita, Kansas, and is the largest fundraising movement for the Special Olympics. LETR is run by police officers, sheriff's deputies, correction officers, support staff, police volunteers and other law enforcement professionals from around the world. Close to 97,000 police professionals in over 45 countries participate in this worldwide effort to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics. Since its inception in 1981, LETR has raised nearly 620 million dollars.



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** - National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. South San Francisco Police meet with approximately 7-10 neighborhood groups during each event.

**NEIGHBOR MEDIATION** – The South San Francisco Police Department works with neighbors that have conflict with each other when there is no criminal component to the complaint. Officers work with mediation programs from San Mateo County and arrange meetings with the neighbors in an attempt to agree to long-term, peaceful resolutions.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH** – The Community Relations Division of the South San Francisco Police Department has worked in conjunction with approximately 10 neighborhood watch groups throughout the City. Members from the police department attend meetings in the neighborhoods to help guide and resolve issues specific to the neighborhood needs.





**OFFICER FOR THE DAY** - Officer for the Day is an event that is auctioned off at several of the elementary schools in South San Francisco, during the school's annual fundraising events. The winner of the auction receives a voucher to have their child picked up at their home with a police escort and driven to school. When they arrive they are greeted by school staff and members from the police department. The child is allowed to be an "officer for the day" and is taken to the police department for lunch and for a private tour. This event has historically raised thousands of dollars for our local schools.



**PAL (POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE)** - The SSF Police Activities League (PAL) was founded in South San Francisco in 1958 by Gus Nicolopolulos and Purnell (Pappy) Shaffley. They were part of a wave of innovative police leaders who felt that if Police Officers interacted with the young people of the community they could have a positive impact on them. Their vision has proven to be true many, many times over. The mission, in part, is to enhance the relationship our community children have with police officers, and to help them learn valuable life lessons such as sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, respect for others and friendship. These are all vital characteristics in the development of future good citizens and community leaders.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT TOURS** – Each year our school liaison officers work with our elementary schools in organizing police department tours for the students. Hundreds of students are brought to the police department on field trips and given a tour to meet our officers and ask any questions they may have.



**POLICE WEEK AT TANFORAN MALL** – This is an annual event that the South San Francisco Police Department has attended for more than 20 years. It is an event where local law enforcement agencies set up a booth in the shopping mall and answer questions by those in attendance. It allows the children in attendance to sit in police vehicles, take photographs, and interact with our officers in a friendly setting.

**PROJECT NEAT (NEIGHBORHOOD ENFORCEMENT ACTION TEAM)** – This is a diversion program that is offered to our non-violent, first offense, juvenile offenders. As an alternate to prosecution, the juvenile and their parent/guardian agree to participate in eight hours of community service and attend counseling. If the juvenile does not complete the agreement, the case is forwarded to the District Attorney for prosecution. This program allows our juveniles a chance to keep their record untarnished.

**PROJECT YES (YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES)** – Project "YES" is a program designed by the South San Francisco Police Department's School Liaison Officers and is a supplement to the G.R.E.A.T. program. This program is five sessions long and is presented to all students in the 5th grade. It provides students with lessons on bullying, communication, decision making, on-line dangers, and substance abuse. This program allows the police and our students to build positive relationships.



**RED RIBBON WEEK (CHALLENGE DAY)** - Officers participate in several competitive field games and challenge the students in foot races, dances, sport events, etc. This day also gives elementary students an opportunity to see police officers out of uniform and interact with them on a social level. The goal is to build positive relations with our youth.



**RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES** - Rights and Responsibilities is a class taught to high school students, by SSFPD School Liaison Officers, about making proper choices as teens as they approach early adulthood. The curriculum also explains the role of law enforcement in the community, including the explanation of probable cause, reasonable suspicion, and lawful detentions, are. It is a follow up to the curriculum that is presented to students during the G.R.E.A.T. and Y.E.S. programs. It gives our teen-aged students an opportunity to ask questions and get answers from a sworn police officer.



**SCHOOL CAMPUS VIOLENT INTRUDER TRAININGS** – South San Francisco School Liaison Officers work with staff at each of the schools in South San Francisco and implement emergency plans in the event of an “active violent intruder” incident. All of the schools have a pre-agreed upon plan to follow if such an incident occurs. Practice drills are also conducted to ensure the best emergency response in the event of a real emergency.

**SUMMER YOUTH CAMP** - During this week-long camp, participants learn all about a “Day in the Life” of a South San Francisco Police Officer. It is a fun-filled week where their day starts with physical training, learning how to march as a team, completing SWAT obstacle courses, a scavenger hunt, crime investigations, observing demonstrations by SSFPD’s working K9s, as well as walks to a local Park and sports games with SSFPD officers. At the end of the week, there is a BBQ with members of SSFPD and a graduation ceremony.

**TOBACCO/ALCOHOL STINGS** – The South San Francisco Police Department works with the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to keep alcohol and tobacco out of the hands of juveniles. Each year, multiple “sting” operations are set up and conducted to hold businesses and community members accountable for furnishing alcohol and tobacco products to our underage youth.

**VIOLENT INTRUDER TRAINING** – Our trained and experienced officers have conducted campus assessments on more than 50 buildings/businesses throughout South San Francisco and have trained thousands of employees on what to do in the event of a violent intruder incident on their property. Each of the trainings is tailored to the specific business so employees know what to do in an emergency situation.

**YOUTH ACADEMY** - The South San Francisco Police Department “Youth Academy” is a program intended for children in our community between the ages of 10 and 14, and is modeled after the department’s already successful Citizens’ Academy program for adults. The eight-week program is designed to build and strengthen relationships between the children in the community and the members of the Police Department. This is accomplished by educating children about the different functions of the police department and the role of police officers in the community.

**YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY** – This event provides an opportunity for our local high school students to act as the “Chief of Police” for the day. The students spend several hours with the Chief of Police learning about the day-to-day issues faced by the police department. These students get to experience what it would be like to have a career in the field of Law Enforcement at the South San Francisco Police Department.

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