



NEIGHBORS IN UNIFORM

A newsletter from Gwinnett Police

October 2024

Welcome to Neighbors in Uniform, a monthly newsletter that provides information about Gwinnett County Police events, topics, programs, and initiatives. We are honored to have the respect and trust of the residents we serve and protect, and we're happy to be a resource and support.

Drop off expired medications at Gwinnett Police Drug Takeback

Residents have another chance to dispose of unwanted or potentially dangerous prescription medications. On **Saturday, October 26**, we're partnering with the Drug Enforcement Agency for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

The Drug Take Back Day is an effort to prevent medication misuse and opioid addiction. If you want to help make our communities safer by removing unneeded medications from your home, please stop by [police headquarters or a precinct](#) near you from **10:00am to 2:00pm**.

Liquids, syringes, sharps, and other non-prescription drugs will not be accepted. No appointment is needed and anyone dropping off prescription drugs will not be asked about medical history nor how they came into possession of the medications. To learn more, visit GwinnettCounty.com.



Help us Fill the Sleigh for kids in need



Join us for our 4th annual Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive! We're accepting toy donations for children ages 3 to 15 starting **Monday, November 4** through **Friday, December 13**. Toys should be new, unwrapped, and priced at \$10 or more. Youth basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, and gift cards are great gifts for teenagers. Please note that toy weapons will not be accepted. Donations can be dropped off at [Gwinnett Police headquarters or any precinct lobby](#).

Donations will be distributed during the Santa's Community Workshop events for local children in need. For more information about the Fill the Sleigh Toy Drive and how you can

help support our efforts, please email PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com.

Congratulations to the 46th Gwinnett Police Citizens Academy Graduates

Congratulations to the latest cohort of 24 diverse residents from our Citizens Police Academy!

These dedicated individuals consistently attended classes and actively participated in insightful discussions with Chief J.D. McClure and leaders from each of our divisions and specialized units.

For eight weeks, residents fully immersed themselves in hands-on activities, multiple traffic stop and patrol scenarios, and an optional ride-along lasting 6 to 8 hours with a Gwinnett Police officer, gaining direct insight into how officers handle calls for service.

We look forward to seeing our new graduates serve as enthusiastic and supportive ambassadors for our Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association of Gwinnett. Don't miss your opportunity to connect and engage with us in our upcoming Citizens Police Academy starting on **March 4, 2025**. Space is limited. [Apply](#) now to secure your spot.



Learn how to defend yourself in an active violence situation

An active shooter is an individual who is engaged in killing, or attempting to kill, people in a confined and populated area. These incidents are often unpredictable and can escalate quickly.

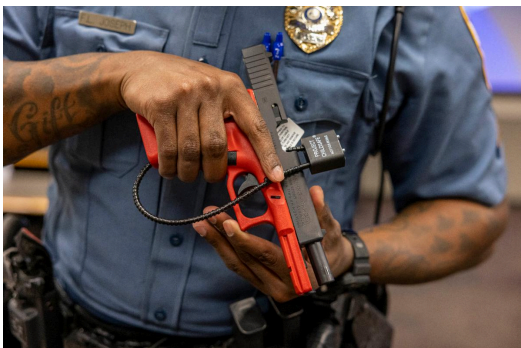
Gwinnett Police is now offering an Active Violence course to help individuals understand the importance of situational awareness. The course covers key concepts RUN, HIDE, FIGHT and AVOID, DENY, DEFEND. Participants will learn how to think critically and improvise to protect themselves during an active violence situation, as well as what to do once police officers arrive. These concepts will be learned in a classroom setting with no physical scenarios involved.



Visit GwinnettCounty.com/ActiveViolence to register for one of our upcoming classes below:

- **Saturday, November 2, 10:00am** at Training Center, 854 Winder Highway, Lawrenceville
- **Monday, November 4, 6:30pm** at North Precinct, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard, Buford
- **Thursday, December 5, 6:30pm** at West Precinct, 6160 Crescent Drive, Norcross

Master your firearm with essential gun safety practices



Whether you're new to gun ownership or if you've been a gun owner for quite some time, it's always great to brush up on your firearm safety skills. We offer several Firearm Safety and Security classes throughout the year to share guidelines and best practices for safe gun handling. The classes are taught by law enforcement personnel at all police precincts.

Registration is required to participate, and seating is limited. Youth who plan to attend must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Residents are prohibited from bringing their own weapons to class. All classes start promptly at **6:30pm**.

Visit GwinnettCounty.com/FirearmSafety to register for one of our upcoming classes below:

- **Wednesday, October 23**, South Precinct, 2180 Stone Drive, Lilburn
- **Tuesday, November 5**, North Precinct, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard, Buford
- **Tuesday, December 3**, Bay Creek Precinct, 185 Ozora Road, Loganville

Conversations with Gwinnett youth initiatives off to a great start

Gwinnett Police participated in the 2024 Powered Up Youth Symposium hosted by the Gwinnett County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., on Saturday, October 5.

The Community Affairs team demonstrated four types of traffic stop scenarios to educate teens about their rights as drivers and what to expect from law enforcement. Additionally, we engaged in a scenario that informed youth about the risks of accepting drinks or drugs that could lead to an overdose and the appropriate actions to take to save a life.

We want to extend our gratitude to our Gang Unit Investigator Tarron Key, our Gun Crime Unit Detective Jimmy Wilson, and Gwinnett County Public Schools Investigator Ronetta Coates for serving as panelists during SEASUS' inaugural Conversations with Gwinnett Youth series. Their insights on guns and gangs were invaluable to the youth and parents who attended. Panelists offered strategies for conflict resolution at home and in schools, highlighted the risks associated with gang involvement, and explained the implications of Georgia's constitutional carry laws. Panelists detailed the protocols in place that Gwinnett schools follow to collaborate with local authorities in case of school shooting threats, shared how to access community mental health and wellbeing resources, and provided information on anonymous hotlines for reporting gang activity or threats of gun violence.

We commend community organizations for their commitment to educate our youth and equip them with knowledge of the severe consequences of poor decision-making. We are eager to collaborate with local organizations in an ongoing effort to prevent and combat violence. Don't hesitate to contact Gwinnett Police Community Affairs via email at PDCommunityAffairs@gwinnettcountry.com.



National Weather Service offers free storm spotter training



SKYWARN® storm spotters are an important group of volunteers that report severe weather, winter weather, and weather damage to the National Weather Service. These reports aid the National Weather Service in accomplishing its mission of, protection of life and property, by providing forecasters essential information of what is actually going on at ground level. SKYWARN® spotters receive training from the National Weather Service on weather safety, storm structure, and reportable criteria. These trainings are usually held in conjunction with local governments or local SKYWARN® groups.

You can register now for a virtual interactive class for basic storm spotters that will teach general severe weather awareness, storm spotting techniques, and proper reporting to your local National Weather Service Office (Peachtree City/Atlanta). Two virtual classes available:

- Register [here](#) for the **October 25** virtual class
- Register [here](#) for the **November 1** virtual class

Safety Tip of the Month: Halloween trick-or-treating safety

The holiday season is here. Let's start it off by having a safe and enjoyable Halloween. Here are some safety tips for parents and trick-or-treaters:

- Make sure all children are supervised by a responsible adult.
- Adults should make sure that traffic rules for pedestrians are followed.
- Carry a flashlight and wear bright colors or reflective items.
- Stay in well-lit communities and areas. Avoid houses that are dark.
- Inspect all treats with a responsible adult before eating. Remember — when in doubt, throw it out.
- If you're driving, be on the lookout for trick or treaters.
- Respect the designated end time for community events and activities.



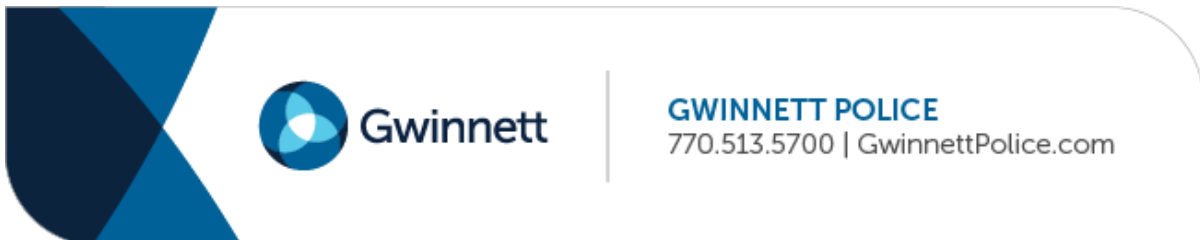
Tips for residents who pass out treats:

- Pass out sealed, individual treats or items.
- Keep your home well-lit while passing out treats.
- Never give money to anyone who approaches.
- If you feel uncomfortable at any time, do not open your door.

If you see anything out of the ordinary, please call the police, but remember this is a very busy night, so be prepared to provide as much information as possible.

For more safety tips visit [Gwinnett Safety 411](#).

For questions regarding the Neighbors in Uniform newsletter, please contact Rachael Nickie at Rachael.Nickie@GwinnettCounty.com or 770.513.5348. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram @GwinnettPD](#).



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