

# CORNER



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## The Prom and Drinking and Driving

The Costa Mesa Police Department has always taken a “no tolerance” approach to drinking and driving. At this year’s MADD Awards Luncheon, 7 Costa Mesa Police officers received the Century Award for arresting over 100 drunk drivers in 2013.

Unfortunately, a good portion of those arrested are under the age of 21. With prom season in full swing, it’s a good time to talk to your teenagers not only about drinking and driving, but also about getting into a vehicle with someone who has been drinking.

Some of the statistics for underage drinking can be shocking. Did you know?

- About 30 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders have tried alcohol.
- About half of all 10<sup>th</sup> graders drink.
- 1 in 6 teens binge drink – but only 1 in 100 parents think his or her child binge drinks.
- Teen alcohol use kills about 4,700 people each year, more than all other drugs combined.

What can we do to prevent a needless tragedy on prom night? TALK to your children about the dangers of drinking and driving. It is never too early to have a conversation about alcohol with your teen. Also, please lead by example – never drink and drive yourself!



## A Spotlight on Our Volunteers

Every year in April, during Volunteer Appreciation Week, we celebrate all the hard work that is done by our Police Department Volunteers. On April 9, 2014, we treated our volunteers to a special luncheon at Acapulco Restaurant.

Last year, our volunteers logged over 8,100 hours of service. They work in several assignments throughout the department, including Records, Traffic, Detective Bureau, Animal Control, CSI, and Property. The volunteers are also responsible for handling live scan service to the community. In doing these assignments, the volunteers issued over 1,000 parking citations, generated \$44,000 in revenue via live scan, and generated over \$16,000 in animal licensing fees.

In order to be a volunteer at the Police Department, you must attend our Citizens' Academy. The Citizens' Academy is offered twice yearly, in the spring and fall. Our next class begins on Thursday, September 11, 2014, and will run for 11 weeks.

The academy is designed to provide citizens with an understanding of the Police Department's operation. Students will learn from Police Department personnel who are experts in the area of SWAT, major crimes, patrol operations, traffic laws, criminal law, crime scene investigation, and other related fields. Students will also be scheduled for a ride along during the academy.

Students will gain an overall knowledge of the Costa Mesa Police Department, how it is organized, how it serves the community, and who the people are who respond when citizens call.

If you are interested in volunteering here at the Police Department, or just learning about your Police Department, this class is for you! Please visit the P.D. website at [www.costamesapd.org](http://www.costamesapd.org), and click on the link for Citizens' Programs for more information or contact Kelly Vucinic at 714 754-4876.

