

SDSU Police Volunteer Program Update with Aztec Parent Teresa Greenhalgh

An article on the SDSU Police Volunteer Program (VIP), similar to what many law enforcement agencies offer to community members, was featured in the fall issue of *News for Aztec Parents*. One Aztec Parent, Teresa Greenhalgh, was motivated by that article to sign up for the new program. *News for Aztec Parents* (NAP) caught up with Teresa.

(NAP): Why did you decide to become an SDSU Police Department VIP?

(TG): With my organizational skills and years of community service, which includes being a San Diego Rural Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member, I felt that I could help the SDSU Police Department create a great program. Joining the VIP Program in its formation stage has provided me the opportunity to share my talents with the Department and the campus community. My personal goal is that this will be a program other universities will want to model.

(NAP): Have you ever had any law enforcement experience before?

(TG): No, I have not. That is what is nice about the program. I can make a difference, just by being an extra set of eyes and ears on campus for the Police Department and no previous law enforcement experience is necessary.

(NAP): How much time are you devoting to this program?

(TG): I am devoting eight hours a week to the program. There are some weeks I am volunteering more time, because we are still in the formation stage and we want to roll out a great program to the other VIP members as they join us. However, the extra time is my choice.

(NAP): Can you provide examples of the types of things you are doing?

(TG): Service will vary as we move forward with the VIP Program. Currently we are finalizing the policy and training manuals. We are setting the training schedules and setting up a VIP Office in the Love Library. As the program rolls out, there will be the opportunity to conduct vehicle and foot patrols,



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register bikes, and assist at special events (such as graduation, sporting events, Explore SDSU and the New Student and Parent Orientations). We will be available to speak with the students about safety and personal emergency preparedness, such as the items they should own to be prepared during a power outage.

(NAP): What is the most interesting thing you've encountered as a VIP?

(TG): I am learning a lot about the Police Department and how they operate on a general basis. Having not been previously involved with law enforcement, I have a different appreciation for the work they do to make the campus a safer place for our students.

(NAP): What would you say to other parents who might be interested in volunteering?

(TG): I have really enjoyed working with the SDSU Police Department on the VIP Program. For the eight hours of weekly service, I break my week up into two four-hour days, so it is more manageable within

my schedule. As a bonus, my college students have met me for lunch on my breaks . . . so how much more wonderful can that be? I would suggest that other parents get involved. Working with the Police Department has been a very rewarding experience. They have embraced my ideas, shared their appreciation for my time and made me feel so welcomed.

As parents, my husband Darren and I have always taught our children to, "Take the time to make a difference." Of course it is equally important to model the behavior. I sincerely hope that other parents will join me in the SDSU VIP Program. As VIP members we can make a difference together!