

# NATIONAL POLICE WEEK



Across the country, our law enforcement officers play a crucial role in the safety and success of our communities. Police officers risk their lives every time they go to work in order to protect our lives, our rights and our property.

During National Police Week, it is appropriate that we honor the men and women who serve our communities through law enforcement and remember those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



The first call many people make during an emergency is to their local police department. Police officers and other law enforcement personnel are instrumental in keeping citizens safe and protecting personal property, acting as keepers of the law and making sure laws are obeyed.

Despite the services they provide and the risks they take every day, law enforcement officers are often taken for granted. Until an officer loses his or her life while on the job, little fanfare is given to the difficult role our police officers play every day.

Responsibilities of officers and other law enforcement workers vary depending on their rank and location, but most would agree they play a vital role at all levels — from local to national governments. Here are some notable law enforcement organizations in North America.

• **U.S. PARK POLICE:** Believe it or not, the Park Police is the oldest uniformed federal law enforcement agency in the United States. Created in 1791 by George Washington, the Park Police is a separate, specialized unit of the National Park Service. The main areas of patrol for the United States Park Police include Washington, D.C., the Gateway National Recreation Areas in New York City, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, Calif.

• **ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE:** The Canadian police force is broken down into three levels: Municipal, provincial and federal. All but three provinces hand over their provincial law enforcement responsibilities to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Commonly referred to as “The Mounties,” the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are both a federal and national police force and have an unusually large scope of duties. The officers may handle enforcing federal laws such as counterfeiting, drug trafficking and organized crime, while also handling forensic identification, emergency responses and other traditional police duties at the provincial level.

• **BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT:** The first, local, modern police department established in the United States was the Boston Police Department, which was founded in 1838. It is the second oldest municipal police force in the country behind only the Philadelphia Police Department. Before the establishment of a formal police department in Boston, residents of the city engaged in a night watch. Watchmen carried a badge, rattle and a pole that was painted blue-and-white. The pole had a hook on one end to make it easier to apprehend fleeing criminals. Today, the Boston Police is one of the largest police departments in the country.

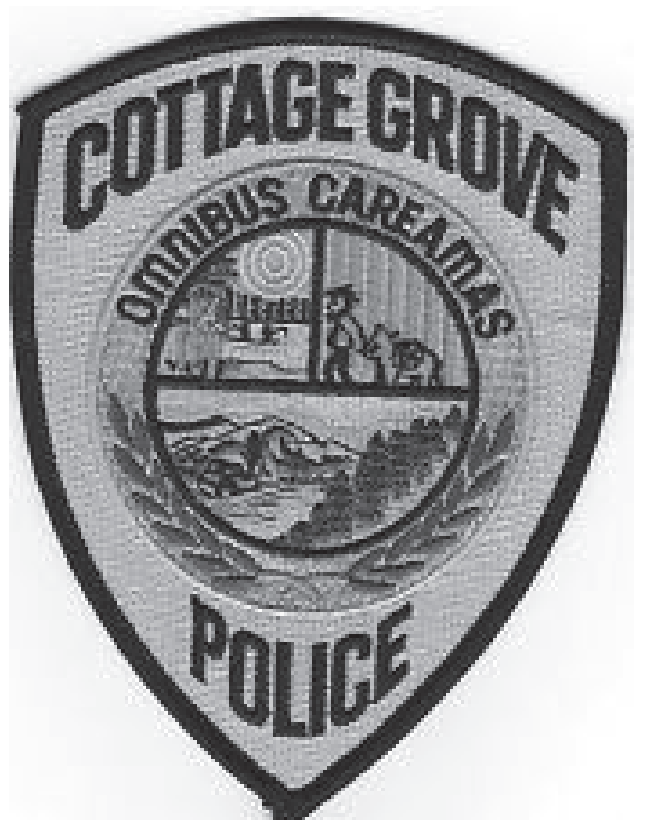
• **NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Individuals looking to join the largest municipal police force in the United States need look no further than the NYPD. According to the NYPD administration, there are currently around 34,500 uniformed officers in the force. Established in 1845, the primary responsibilities of the NYPD involve law enforcement within the five boroughs of New York City.

• **UNITED STATES MINT POLICE:** The Mint Police are responsible for ensuring the protection of government valuables. Established in 1792, it is one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the country and has the responsibility for protecting the United States Mint and the United States Treasury. The Mint Police are stationed all over the country, from California to Colorado to Pennsylvania.

• **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD:** Law enforcement in the United States even extends to the waters that surround the country. The U.S. Coast Guard is the nation’s primary maritime law enforcement agency and has multi-faceted jurisdictional authority in the waters of the United States. The Coast Guard generally handles water emergencies, drug interdiction and inspection of fishing vessels. The Coast Guard also plays a role in preventing illegal immigration. The Coast Guard is a division of the Department of Homeland Security.

• **CAMPUS POLICE:** Many colleges and universities, and even some high schools, employ campus police. Usually these are sworn police officers who are employed by the school to protect the campus personnel, students and surrounding areas. Campus police officers’ on-campus location typically enables them respond more quickly to school-centered emergencies than a city police force located off-campus.

Law enforcement officers provide a unique and valuable service to communities big and small. Whatever their specific role, the men and women who wear the uniform are vital to the safety of the country.



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