



The Chief publicly badging a new recruit in uniform

SELECTION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Potential members of the VIP Program must meet the following criteria:

- *At least 21 years old and possess a valid CA Driver's License.*
- *A resident of Santa Barbara or nearby communities.*
- *Pass a detailed background check.*
- *Attend bi-monthly meetings.*
- *Able to volunteer an average of 16 hours per month or 48 hours quarterly.*
- *The ability to communicate clearly with police personnel (on radio) and the public.*

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program is to contribute to public safety and to law enforcement-community relationships by assisting the Santa Barbara Police Department in a variety of non-enforcement capacities that promote the community-oriented policing philosophy of the department.

For applications and further information, contact hgiles@sbpd.com or 805/698-2673. There are several steps in the application process. Potential VIPs must initially complete an extensive personal history questionnaire. Eligible applicants will be invited to an interview, followed by a thorough background investigation. The entire process often takes 3-4 months to complete.



Santa Barbara Police Dept. VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING (VIPs)



Volunteer to be a partner with SBPD!

VIPS' WORK ROLES

VIPs regularly walk and patrol State Street, Stearns Wharf and other locations interacting with citizens and tourists, assisting in traffic control, and protecting the integrity of crime scenes. Some VIPs assist the public in the SBPD lobby as Greeters. VIPs often help with crowd control at parades and public events and we have our own assigned vehicle to be mobile on patrol.

VIPs with appropriate experience, have also worked with the SBPD in areas, including but not restricted to:

- elder abuse
- criminal investigations
- actors in police training exercises
- created 'at risk ID cards for vulnerable populations
- training officers to testify more effectively in court.



VIPs working alongside Fire & PD assisting with traffic control after a traffic collision

VIP COMMENTS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROGRAM

*"My involvement with the VIP program has been a life changing experience. I have developed some lifelong relationships with other VIP members, police officers and members of the community."
"It's a great way to contribute to keeping the Santa Barbara community the safe and special place that it is."*



An aspect of a Training Day

VIPS' HISTORY AND FUTURE

The VIP Program began in July 2017. The VIPs are well-respected by the SBPD, feel like a valued part of the police department family, and host social and anniversary events. Several younger members of VIP program migrated into full time law enforcement positions. Current members have a wide range of backgrounds, many with no experience in law enforcement. We are intending on doubling the numbers of VIPs in the near future, with more thereafter, thereby allowing us to radically expand our roles.



VIPs working with Officers on State St. patrol