

## **WHAT IS YOUTH CRIME WATCH?**

Youth Crime Watch (YCW) of Miami-Dade is a youth crime prevention program of Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County. It is available to all Miami-Dade County schools and communities. It was established to help youth develop proactive strategies to create safe schools for all students. A Youth Crime Watch program works as a club of a core group of students who spearhead various youth crime prevention campaigns, activities, and events to educate their peers on safety. Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade also offers youth crime prevention educational services on a wide array of safety topics.

### **Benefits of Youth Crime Watch**

- Develops student leadership; it empowers students to take ownership on their school's safety.
- Encourages positive peer pressure among students to report crime, change attitudes and take pride in their schools through its series of crime prevention programs and action projects.
- Educates students on various topics in the field of crime prevention and they are provided the tools for them to disseminate the education to their peers.

## **YCW SERVICES**

### **YCW Advisor Training**

YCW of Miami-Dade County School Coordinators are available to train faculty representatives participating as YCW School Advisors on the implementation of the YCW School Program at their school site.

### **YCW Student Training**

YCW of Miami-Dade County School Coordinators train the YCW Student Members on the goals & objectives of the YCW School Program, and also incorporate a student crime prevention educator system by providing the student members the proper tools and guidance for them to educate their peers on numerous youth crime prevention topics.

### **Crime Prevention Presentations**

YCW of Miami-Dade County School Coordinators are state certified Crime Prevention Practitioners available to conduct youth crime prevention presentations on topics such as: Reporting Crimes, School Violence Prevention, Bullying & Cyberbullying Prevention, Personal Safety, Stranger Danger, Drug Prevention, Sexting Prevention, and more. Safety materials are disseminated to students, teachers, and counselors to reinforce the education.

### **McGruff the Crime Dog**

YCW of Miami-Dade utilizes the iconic crime prevention mascot McGruff the Crime Dog for school assemblies, classroom presentations, school safety events, community safety fairs, and county parades. McGruff plays an integral role on educating children, teens, and parents on youth crime prevention and on celebrating safety with them.

### **Poster & Essay Contest**

Each year, YCW of Miami-Dade sponsors a Poster & Essay Contest on a crime prevention theme. The contest is open to all Miami-Dade County Public School students. The contest provides students a forum to present their crime prevention action plans.

### **YCW "Stop The Violence"**

#### **Blue Ribbon Week**

YCW of Miami-Dade annually spearheads the YCW "Stop The Violence" Blue Ribbon Week. The official YCW color is blue. Various YCW schools participate in the campaign by coordinating "stop the violence" activities and decorating their schools with blue ribbons in demonstrating a student solidarity to live a "violence free lifestyle".

## Join or help start up a YCW Program

The CRIME WATCH philosophy has been successfully reducing neighborhood and school crime for years. It is simply a system of people, (neighbors, students and citizens) watching out for one another, recognizing and reporting crimes, and participating in crime prevention programs.

Youth Crime Watch is successful because it is very flexible and adaptable, providing for a range of Crime Prevention Projects which are youth-led.

YCW will only be effective with your participation! You will discuss concerns within your school and community with fellow students, YCW School Advisors, and School Resource Officers.

Contact your school's YCW Advisor to join the YCW Program at your school. If your school does not have an active YCW Program (club), contact your school administration and encourage them to start one!



**CITIZENS' CRIME WATCH  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

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**For more information, contact  
Youth Crime Watch  
of Miami-Dade  
305-468-1302  
or log on to**

**[www.youthcrimewatch-miamidade.org](http://www.youthcrimewatch-miamidade.org)**

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### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR STUDENTS TO KNOW**

**To report threats, warning signs, and crimes  
in Miami-Dade Schools:**

**M-DCPS BeSafe Anonymous Reporting System**

School Police Safety Hotline:  
305-995-COPS (2677)

Text Reporting System: 274637 (CRIMES)  
Keyword is Besafe, then type your tip

Web-Based Reporting System:  
<http://besafe.dadeschools.net>

**To report bullying and harassment  
in Miami-Dade schools:**

Bullying/Harassment Hotline:  
305-995-CARE (2273)

**To report illegal weapons  
in Miami-Dade communities and schools:**

Crimestoppers/Gun Bounty Program:  
305-471-TIPS

**Any tips that are provided are done so  
anonymously.**

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## **YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

*Since 1979*



### **Youth Crime Watch Mission Statement**

**To foster a safe school  
environment impacting  
student well-being through  
awareness and involvement.**

Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County  
is a program of  
Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County  
501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
[www.citizenscrimewatch.org](http://www.citizenscrimewatch.org)