

COUNTY OF KENT
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

LAWRENCE A. STELMA



Kent County Sheriff's Department Official News Release

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THE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S VOLUNTEER TRAIL PATROL

The Kent County Sheriff Department Community Services Unit coordinates the highly successful Volunteer Trail Patrol Program.

These volunteers patrol the White Pine, South Kent, and the East trail systems, providing assistance to the trail users and reporting problems that need to be addressed. The Sheriff Department provides equipment to the volunteers. They receive a cell phone and two-way radio to use during their patrol. They wear a Sheriff Department issued vest and carry a picture identification card that identifies them as a trail volunteer.

The volunteers are trained on how to report suspicious or dangerous activity. They also report trail maintenance issues that may need immediate attention. Volunteers choose to walk, ride a bike or use in line skates to patrol.

Volunteers set their own schedule and a minimum of a 2-hour commitment is requested. Requirements for volunteering are that you be at least 18 years of age, have a friendly demeanor, and the ability to provide transportation for yourself to and from the trail system. An interview and criminal background check is done for every trail volunteer.

A mandatory meeting for the trail volunteers is scheduled for **Tuesday May 13, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.** This meeting will be held at the Kent County Sheriff Department 701 Ball Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503. If you would like more information on this program, please feel free to contact Sandi Jones at the Community Services Unit 616-632-6221.