



OFFICE OF
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KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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Media Advisory #08-061 / 125

Friday, Dec. 12, 2008

Story and video footage opportunity:

Fifth annual “Shop with a Cop” Christmas

This advisory concerns the Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office “Shop with a Cop” Christmas program.

Location: The North Kitsap WAL*MART Store, 21200 Olhava Way NW, Poulsbo.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Purpose: The Kitsap County Sheriff’s Corrections Officers Association will host their fifth annual "Shop with a Cop" Christmas in Kitsap County.

The program is designed to help bring holiday joy to disadvantaged children within the community, and to help foster positive community relations between law enforcement and these youngsters.

Participating agencies include:

- Kitsap County Sheriff’s deputies, corrections officers and sheriff’s administration
- Officers from Bainbridge Island Police, Bremerton Police, Port Orchard Police, Poulsbo Police and Suquamish Police Departments
- Troopers from Washington State Patrol (District 8)
- Firefighters from Poulsbo Fire Department
- Dispatchers and support staff from Kitsap County Central Communications
- Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office Citizens on Patrol volunteers
- Washington State Department of Corrections
- Personnel from Naval Base Kitsap – Bangor
- Sailors from USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74)
- Coast Guardsmen from USCGC Midgett (WHEC 726)
- Soldiers from Washington State Army National Guard
- Cadets from military reserve officer training corps units

"Shop with a Cop" is centered on community participation and law enforcement support. The children will be provided \$100 gift cards to spend on Christmas shopping however they may wish. Uniformed escorts act as chaperons to help the junior shoppers make sound decisions and assist them in keeping track of how much they spend.

The goal for Christmas 2008 is to provide this opportunity for more than 130 children, selected by North Kitsap School District, some who are homeless and living out of shelters. This number is a significant increase from the program's first launch, in December 2004, when 28 children participated.

Funding for the "Shop with a Cop" program was raised through volunteer efforts by officers with the sheriff's office corrections division, the state department of corrections, the Lions Club and various family members and friends.

The children will be met at WAL*MART by uniformed personnel where they will pair-up with their 'cop,' while awaiting the arrival of Sheriff Steve Boyer who will be escorting Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus to the store. Each child will have the opportunity to have his or her photograph taken with a uniformed officer and the Claus', and then begin their shopping expedition. The children may use the money to purchase gifts for themselves or family members or friends. Gift wrapping will be available.

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