



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Volunteer Opportunities Available at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office

Date: August 2, 2023

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is seeking individuals who are interested in using their skills and talents to help others, while making a tangible difference in keeping Hernando County a safer place to live, work and play.

If you have some free time, and would like to "give back" to your community, please take a look at some of the volunteer opportunities we currently have available.

Sheriff's Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV)

Sheriff Nienhuis has recognized a need for emergency response volunteers who will provide assistance to law enforcement personnel in a variety of situations and events.

Sheriff's Emergency Response Volunteers will be activated to assist with events such as searches for missing adults and children, grid searches, law enforcement scenes that are active for extended periods, and special events and programs, just to name a few.

Volunteers will be provided with extensive, on-going training, and will always be supervised. Volunteers will not be placed in, or permitted access to, crime scenes and/or any location where imminent danger is present.

Volunteers are provided with an HCSO volunteer ID card and a uniform shirt.

To apply, please follow this link

<https://hernadosheriffvolunteer.applicantstack.com/x/detail/a2w5nvj3m6ai>

Sheriff's Traffic Aides (STA)

Sheriff's Traffic Aides provide assistance to law enforcement at traffic crashes, highway/roadway obstructions, traffic signal outages/malfunctions, and/or any scene where traffic management is required.

Sheriff's Traffic Aides receive specialized training in how to safely direct traffic at both emergency and non-emergency scenes.

To apply, please follow this link

<https://hernandosheriffvolunteer.applicantstack.com/x/detail/a2w5nvj9nu5b>

Sheriff's Volunteer Shallow Water Rescue Unit (SWR)

The Sheriff's Volunteer Shallow Water Rescue Unit is an initiative designed to create a partnership between the HCSO and Hernando County citizens who own a High Water Clearance Vehicle, All Terrain Vehicle, Flat Bottom Boat, or an Air Boat to provide assistance in various shallow water rescue operations, typically after a severe weather event.

Volunteers will be activated during times of coastal and/or inland flooding to assist deputies with evacuation and/or rescue efforts.

To apply, please follow this link

<https://www.hernandosheriff.org/Applications/VolunteerRescueUnit/>

By voluntarily completing the volunteer application and/or the SWR registration form, citizen volunteers agree to have a representative from the HCSO contact them for assistance if/when the need arises.

Please note that participation is voluntary in each instance and that all costs and responsibility resulting from participation will be borne by the volunteer.

Volunteers must be residents of Hernando County. A volunteer background check will be completed on each applicant, prior to approval.

If you have questions about any of the HCSO volunteer opportunities, please contact Dan Santana at dsantana@hernandosheriff.org.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the

ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.