

# Texas Crime Stoppers

## Resources

### Texas Crime Stoppers Training

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<http://www.crimestoppers.txstate.edu>

Provides Training and Technical Assistance to Crime Stoppers organizations and the general public.

### Available on-line

- Training Schedule
- Certification Information
- 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Links
- Non-profit Corporation Information
- Sample Forms: bylaws, operating procedures, articles of incorporation, etc.
- Sample Publicity: Public Service Announcements, "Crime of the Week"
- Video Clips
- Training - Internet Basic Course and Internet Campus Course
- Directory of Crime Stoppers Organizations

### To speak with a person

- Texas Crime Stoppers Training office
- Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council
- Training courses and conferences
- Local community programs, visit the website for directory information

## Campus Programs

Texas Crime Stoppers programs operate on middle school, high school, and college and university campuses, either with student-led boards of directors or through administration by the community program. These programs have been very successful in helping campuses curb violence, prevent the sale and abuse of drugs, and warn school officials and local police about pending violence on the campuses and at school athletic events. When establishing a campus Crime Stoppers program, it is important that the board, school officials, local law enforcement, and any existing local Crime Stoppers programs work together. Since 1978, campus-based Crime Stoppers programs have alerted police to 1,325 weapons in Texas schools. Campus Crime Stoppers programs help ensure a safer learning environment for all students.

# GOT CRIME?



# LET TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS HELP YOU SOLVE IT!

*This brochure is provided by the Criminal Justice Division,  
Office of the Governor, State of Texas*

*Stopping crime is every citizen's responsibility.*

# Texas Crime Stoppers

## What is Crime Stoppers?



Crime Stoppers is a civilian, nonprofit organization established within a community. It operates a hotline to receive anonymous tips about fugitives or criminal activity.

The program began in 1976 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A local police officer teamed up with the media to gain the community's attention on a recent crime. They televised a reenactment of the crime and offered a cash reward for information. People with information could call a hotline anonymously to provide Crime Stoppers with information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person responsible. It worked.

Crime Stoppers is based on the idea that "someone other than the criminal has information that can solve a crime." It breaks down the largest obstacles in getting people to provide information – fear and apathy. By offering a safe, anonymous reporting method, it gives people an alternative way to provide information about crimes and pays them a cash reward when the information leads to an arrest, conviction, or disciplinary action. Crime Stoppers accomplishes this by having a solid partnership with law enforcement, the media, the community, and dedicated volunteers who serve as the board.



## How Does Crime Stoppers Work?

Local Crime Stoppers programs function as tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. Currently there are over 150 non-profit, state certified and hundreds of campus Crime Stoppers programs operating in Texas.

As a non-profit organization, a local Crime Stoppers program operates with a board of directors. The board is responsible for day-to-day operations, fundraising, and publicity. It also reviews, authorizes, and pays rewards for tips. The board works in conjunction with law enforcement and media to investigate tips and publicize crimes. Law enforcement receives the anonymous tips

### Publicity

*TV, Local Cable, Email, Website, Fliers, Kiosks, Newspaper, Bulletin Boards, Radio, "Crime of the Week", Public Service Announcements*

and forwards them for investigation. The media helps Crime Stoppers maintain a visible profile in the community with reenactments, public service announcements, and newspaper articles.

The board, media, and law enforcement play an integral role in educating the community about Crime Stoppers - its program and unsolved crimes. All three must work together to create a safe community.

Local Crime Stoppers programs can become certified by the Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council, which functions under the Texas Government Code, Chapter 414, and operates out of the Office of the Governor.

Once a program is certified, it is eligible to receive up to \$50 from each convicted felon who is placed on probation. This money must be used to pay rewards.



## Why Do We Need Crime Stoppers?

Crime Stoppers reduces and deters crime, provides anonymity, and reduces the threat of retaliation in our communities and schools. And Crime Stoppers is a big help to law enforcement in preventing and solving crimes, especially those crimes where leads have run out, where evidence is needed, or where witnesses can identify the suspects to help bring about their arrests. Since the first Texas Crime Stoppers program was established in El Paso in 1978, local Crime Stoppers programs throughout the state have compiled an impressive record:

- 88,753 suspects arrested
- 106,880 offenses cleared
- \$13,851,377 in rewards paid
- \$96,966,374 worth of property recovered
- \$504,231,419 worth of narcotics seized

## The Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council

Local Crime Stoppers programs in Texas receive support from the Crime Stoppers Advisory Council, which is located in the Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Governor, in Austin. The Council consists of five members appointed by the Governor. They represent law enforcement, local program boards, and the media. Established under Chapter 414, Texas Government Code, the Council makes rules governing the operation of local programs that seek certification from the state and helps these programs operate effectively through grants, training, and technical assistance.

## Where Do I Get More Information?

For more information about establishing a local Crime Stoppers program or assistance with an existing program, contact Texas Crime Stoppers at 866-220-4357 or visit our website at: <http://www.crimestoppers.txstate.edu>.