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Kyle Neighborhoods Go All Out for National Night Out

KYLE, TX – Today's technology makes connecting with friends and family as easy as picking up your cell phone. Unfortunately, what gets lost in today's virtual access is the face-to-face familiarity that allows neighbors to recognize those people that belong in their neighborhood, and those that don't. The National Night Out program provides a means of correcting this effect.

The 30th Anniversary National Night Out event in the City of Kyle was not only a huge success, but also a lot of fun for area families. Communities throughout the city hosted gatherings with their neighbors, city officials, and employees from the Kyle Police and Fire/EMS Departments celebrating this annual event.

"The overall success of the 2013 National Night Out event in Kyle was tremendous. It truly takes informed citizens working together with our law enforcement agencies to deter the criminal element in our neighborhoods," said Mayor Lucy Johnson.

An integral part of NNO involves crime prevention awareness, generating participation between communities and local law enforcement, and strengthening neighborhood unity.

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The Kyle City Council joined Kyle Police Department officers in participating in events throughout the City. As an example, Council Member Ray Bryant of District 6 had the opportunity to ride along with Kyle Police Chief Jeff Barnett and Captain Pedro Hernandez as they visited events in the Amberwood, Post Oak, and Plum Creek neighborhoods, as well as Mary Hartson/City Square Park in downtown Kyle.

"It was good to see so many children and teach them about making our neighborhoods safe," said Bryant. "I believe National Night Out is an opportunity to partner with our neighborhoods and help promote safety. I think it is important that our citizens know the City is in this with them."

Communities celebrated the event with BBQ's, games and activities, bringing residents, local businesses and city officials together in a positive environment. This year's event brought together over 1,000 residents, 32 officers, support staff, several Citizens Police Academy Alumni, and elected officials including City Council Members, Mayor Johnson and County Judge Linda Rodriguez.

"The Police Department is very pleased at the participation of local businesses and citizens. Enthusiasm was very high as members of the police, fire, and EMS personnel visited with the community about public safety and crime prevention. The participation of local officials solidifies their commitment to serve the community and to improve all aspects of public safety," said Chief Barnett.

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Officer James Plant of Kyle's Police Community Services/Professional Standards Unit worked tirelessly to coordinate between the 14 neighborhood events, sending representatives from the Police and Fire/EMS Departments.

"Coordinating an event like NNO can be a daunting task. Officer Plant did an amazing job and his commitment to the success of this program is unmatched," said Chief Barnett.

To obtain more information on Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention programs offered by the Kyle Police Department, citizens are encouraged to contact a member of the Community Services Division at (512) 268-0859 or via email at ssb@cityofkyle.com.

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