



Monthly News From COPS Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

August 2006

“C.O.P.S. Kids” Summer Camp Underway This Week



This week finds 91 surviving children, 57 parents/guardians, and a staff of mental health professionals and mentors addressing individual and family grief issues while relaxing and participating in fun camp activities at COPS’ 12th annual Summer Camp. The event is once again at the Salvation Army Lake Camp near East Troy, WI. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is again providing its valuable assistance with fishing, archery, rifles, pellet guns, canoeing, and much more.

Camp is open to surviving children ages 6-14. The surviving parent/guardian must attend with the child(ren). The only cost to survivors is their travel to Wisconsin.

The line-of-duty deaths that bring these survivors together span 22 years, ranging from 1984 (for a counselor who is also a surviving child) to early in 2006. Regardless of when the death occurred, however, survivors find strength and support in sharing with others who have, indeed, walked the same path. Participants will leave Camp with a new, or renewed, sense of accomplishment and a “family” that truly understands the impact a line-of-duty death brings.

With record attendance, Summer Camp 2006 will cost COPS approximately \$85,000.

Older Children Are Exploring the Rockies This Week



Surviving children ages 15-20 are spending this week in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado at “C.O.P.S. Teens” Outward Bound®. This group of 33 young adults is accompanied by three mentors, surviving adult children who have “graduated” from COPS’ Outward Bound® program. The line-of-duty deaths for this group of survivors spans 1981 through 2005.

This is the 9th year COPS has provided this opportunity for surviving young adults to bond with others who have experienced the line-of-duty death of a parent while inspiring self-esteem, self-reliance, concern for others, and care for the environment. The only cost to participants is their travel to Colorado.

Because of space limitations, 9 would-be participants had to be turned away; yet, COPS increased the number of participants by 50% over last year’s participation. Next year, COPS anticipates this program to have 50 participants! This year’s program should cost COPS about \$40,000.

COPS Board/Chapter Training



Last month, 66 representatives from COPS' 50 chapters and members of the COPS National Board met at the YMCA in Potosi, MO, to learn from each other and exchange ideas for promoting the COPS organization. Information about paperwork that COPS and regulatory agencies require of chapters was explained and goals for the future were discussed. This annual exchange of ideas and concerns helps Chapters better meet the needs of survivors at the grass-roots level.

Registration Deadlines for 2006 Hands-On Programs

Survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty are encouraged to attend their group-specific Retreat:

Siblings Retreat – September 8-11, registration deadline August 8

Spouses Weekend – September 22-25, registration deadline August 22

Parents' Retreat – October 6-9, registration deadline September 6

In-Law's Retreat – October 20-23, registration deadline September 22

Registration forms can be found at www.nationalcops.org/forms.htm

COPS WALK 2006 Participation Deadline is September 1

Last year's COPS WALK raised \$30,000 for COPS. The event was such a hit with participants, that COPS WALK 2006 is scheduled for October 14-15. Sponsored by the US Secret Service Employee Recreation Association (USSS-ERA), the stated goal of this fundraiser is "to help insure COPS' continued ability to provide the retreats and other hands-on services that are so critical to the recovery of so many." The USSS-ERA covers participants' costs for meals and lodging; travel to and from Washington, DC, is the participant's responsibility.

Participants will walk 25 miles along the scenic and historic C&O Canal Towpath from Virginia through Maryland and into West Virginia. The event will provide participants with a physical challenge as well as the opportunity to spend time with other survivors, supporters, and friends. Each participant is required to raise a minimum of \$1,000 on behalf of COPS through donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations.

COPS had hoped to raise \$100,000 with this event, but participation must be limited to 50 walkers. So COPS is hoping each walker can raise \$2,000 to meet the additional costs of the 2006 COPS hands-on Programs. If you'd like to sponsor a participating walker, or make a general contribution in honor of those accepting this physical challenge, contact the COPS National Office at cops@nationalcops.org. If you'd like to participate in COPS WALK 2006, email ussera@verizon.net. Participation registration deadline is September 1.

Cities Selected for 2007 "The Traumas of Law Enforcement" Trainings

COPS' highly-acclaimed "The Traumas of Law Enforcement", a three-day training for law enforcement, will be presented in 7 locations in 2007. The trainings will be scheduled during the months of January, February, and March. Cities chosen for presentations include: Sacramento, CA; Orlando, FL; Jackson, MS; Dover, DE; Lexington, KY Area; Santa Fe, NM; and Lansing, MI.

COPS is now looking for training sites within these cities. Ideally, COPS would like to utilize a law enforcement academy or other training facility, at little or no cost. The site should be able to accommodate up to 150 participants classroom-style. Another consideration is distance to overnight

accommodations and restaurant facilities. If you know of such a facility in one of these cities, please email Denise_Weise@nationalcops.org.

Hot Pursuit Limos Supporting COPS



After stopping to pick up Suzie Sawyer, Executive Director of COPS, the "world's longest police car" was introduced on Friday, July 28, at the Camdenton, MO, Police Department. The first-ever, security-themed limousine was manufactured in Strafford, MO, for Hot Pursuit Limos of Naples, FL. Bryan Pease, resident of Hot Pursuit Limos, presented an initial donation of \$2,500 to

COPS, and plans to donate \$25 per month per limousine in operation, beginning in January 2007. The company also plans to donate another \$300 per year per car in operation to local law enforcement charities across the United States. Motor Trend Magazine's International Auto Show has invited the Hot Pursuit Limo to be a feature attraction in Orlando, Florida, in November.

COPS Cruise in 2007

The Carnival Liberty, the newest ship in the Carnival fleet, will set sail from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, on March 3, 2007, for an 8-day cruise of the Eastern Caribbean. Stops include San Juan, St. Thomas/St. John, Antigua, Tortola/Virgin Gorda, Nassau and return to Ft. Lauderdale. Only 45 cabins are available, so act quickly to make your reservations. Rates per person range from \$719 to \$1,219 depending on cabin and number of occupants. Contact John Pires at Corporate Travel at 1-800-203-6543. Deposit of \$150 per person is required within 7 days of making reservations. Final payment will be due in December. December 15, 2006, is the final date to book this cruise.

US Marshals Eastern District of Pennsylvania Raises \$3,256 for COPS

The US Marshals Eastern District of Pennsylvania planned and coordinated a June golf outing to benefit COPS and raised \$3,256. Special thanks to Russ Denault and Ken Fechter of the US Marshals. Northampton Valley Country Club in Richboro, PA, hosted the outing. Thanks to all who helped make this a successful fundraising event for COPS.

Mid-Atlantic Police Motorcycle Safety Competition

The 27th Annual Mid-Atlantic Police Motorcycle Safety Competition will be September 14-16 at WalMart Super Center in Fredricksburg, VA. There is also a raffle for a new Harley. Proceeds benefit "C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens". For information, visit www.mapmrc.com.

COPSstore News

COPSstore summer specials include 50% off custom laser-engraved Italian Charms. Blue Ribbon charms are reduced also. Check the COPSstore website for COPS t-shirts under \$10.00. Roll Call items from National Police Week 2006 (with the 2005 Roll Call) are still available so it might be time to stock up on fall apparel such as long sleeve t-shirts and sweatshirts. All items are available at www.COPSstore.com.



Concerns of Police Survivors has been awarded the "Best in America" seal of approval from Independent Charities of America. The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence is awarded to the members of

Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the US Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world. Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal. Visit www.independentcharities.org

Charity Navigator has named Concerns of Police Survivors a Four Star Charity - "Exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its Cause." Visit www.charitynavigator.org.

