

MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



# Education & Prevention Annual Report

August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025



Meridian Police Department SRO Team Receives the National Model SRO Agency Award



Meridian Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting



New: Hidden In Plain Sight Drug Awareness Program

# EDUCATION & PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT

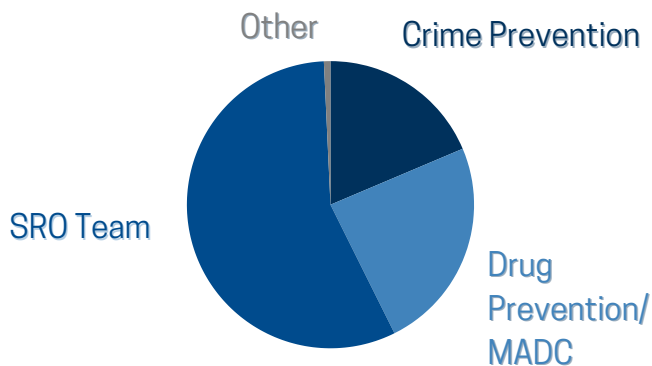


## Introduction

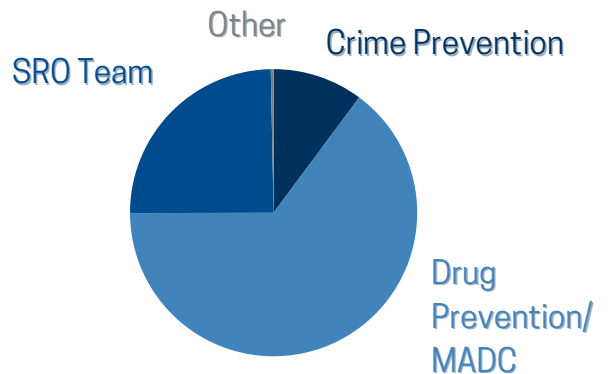
The Meridian Police Department's mission is to provide the highest quality service in partnership with our community, to preserve and protect life and property through **education, prevention, and enforcement**. As we continuously work to meet our mission, we implement a variety of education and prevention strategies throughout the community. This annual report highlights the prevention and education, provided by the School Resource Officer, Drug Prevention/Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition, and Crime Prevention Units. In addition to our many partnerships, our collaboration with West Ada School District helps strengthen and foster relationships; creating a community where people can safely live, work, and raise a family.

From August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025, the Meridian Police Department facilitated **408** prevention events and trainings throughout the year, reaching **41,003** community members. These educational opportunities covered a variety of topics, reached all age groups, and were held at a variety of locations throughout the City of Meridian.

### 408 TOTAL PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS



### 41,003 TOTAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED







## School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit

The Meridian Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) team had an incredibly rewarding and impactful 2024-2025 school year! Their exceptional dedication and hard work have earned them well-deserved recognition for their involvement in school activities. So, what exactly is a school resource officer? These are specially selected law enforcement officers who undergo extensive training and are equipped to uphold our state and city laws within a school setting. Trained not just in law enforcement but also in crisis response, our SROs forge close bonds with the schools they serve.



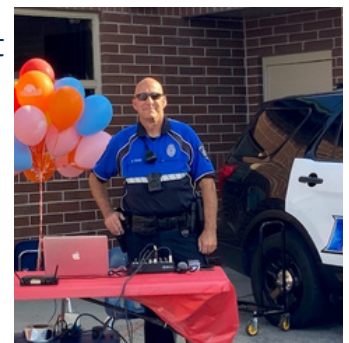
### National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)

Our SROs operate in line with the standards set by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), focusing on providing invaluable resources to school staff. They play a crucial role in building positive relationships with students, devising effective strategies to address youth-related challenges, and ensuring every student feels safe and supported in their journey to reach their fullest potential. NASRO highlights the "Triad Model," which emphasizes three core roles for school resource officers: educator, informal counselor/mentor, and law enforcement officer. We're

thrilled to share that this year, the Meridian SRO team received the prestigious 2025 NASRO Model Agency Award! This accolade honors agencies that exemplify the NASRO Triad Model and maintain exemplary training, policies, and standards. It's a fantastic affirmation of our commitment to professional service in our school community. In July, four of our talented SROs, along with a Sergeant, had the incredible opportunity to travel to Texas to accept this award, an experience we will cherish.

### Retirement: Officer Kirk York

Officer Kirk York, retired this year after serving over 23 years in law enforcement and spent his last seven years on the SRO team. He was named Meridian's Employee of the Year (2024) by Mayor Simison. Officer York was known for his DJ skills, which he showcased at school rallies, dances, and after-school events. The relationships he built with students, staff, and parents will be remembered for decades. His retirement party was attended by many individuals whose lives he touched throughout his career.



### Citizen of the Year

Officer Courtney Dozier was named Citizen of the Year for Meridian High School by school administrators. He was recognized for his unwavering commitment to school safety. On February 18, Officer Dozier risked his life to save a high-risk juvenile who had fled campus and entered an underground drainage pipe. Alongside Patrol Officer C. Lafave and SRO Corporal A. Rudan, Officer Dozier traversed several hundred feet through water and blackout conditions in 30-degree temperatures to rescue the student.



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### The Enrique 'Kiki' Camarena Award

Officer Robert Rodriguez received the Enrique 'Kiki' Camarena Award for the State of Idaho. This award is presented annually by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Drug Awareness Commission to recognize law enforcement professionals committed to drug prevention and education. Officer Rodriguez was selected by his peers for exemplifying the principles and values championed by DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena through his sacrifice, integrity, and dedication to public service.

Our SROs consistently do a phenomenal job at their schools, working diligently behind the scenes to ensure that students feel safe and secure, allowing the learning process to truly flourish.



Our dedicated team is organized into North and South units, each led by a Sergeant and Corporal. Each team includes eight SROs assigned throughout thirty-two schools in the West Ada School District. We also assist with school safety-related activities and law enforcement issues at ten additional schools within the city limits.

Understanding the vital role we play in our community, we are proud of our strong partnerships with the Mayor, City Council, West Ada School District, and members of the community. We are incredibly excited for the upcoming school year and the wonderful opportunities it holds! Here's to safety, learning, and building even stronger relationships together!

### SRO EVENTS/TRAININGS

- Alive@25
- Criminal Justice/Law Class
- Elementary School Visits
- Internet Safety
- Drug & Vaping Education
- K9 Demonstrations/Presentations
- Life Skills Trainings
- Personal Safety
- Lock Down Drills
- School Safety Trainings
- Sporting Events
- Prom & Graduation Events

**231** SRO PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS

**10,144** YOUTH REACHED



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**MERIDIAN ANTI-DRUG COALITION**  
**STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY**

### Drug Prevention Unit/ The Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition

The Meridian Police Department, Drug Prevention Unit and the Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition (MADC) have been partnering to strengthen our community through substance abuse prevention for more than twenty years. We use data driven analysis, and feedback from our community, to improve and expand the prevention programs we provide. This collaborative effort is led by two full time staff, fourteen MADC Executive Committee members, community partners, and numerous volunteers.



### *MADC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES)*

- Business: Anne Little Roberts
- Civic: Susan Stertz
- Government: Kati Chauvin
- Healthcare: *Open Position*
- Law Enforcement: Officer Rodriguez
- Media: Jordan Robinson
- Parent: Earl Scharff
- Religious: Jake Cluff
- School: Yoonwa Saechao & Tiffany Myers
- Substance Misuse: Danielle Fanopoulos
- Youth: Caylee May
- Youth Serving: Brenda Willson

From August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025, the Drug Prevention Unit/MADC engaged with community members at **98** events/trainings throughout the year, reaching **26,561** people.



### **Data Driven**

As we work to reduce substance misuse and align our work with national best practices, we use data analysis and evaluation to ensure the prevention strategies we select meet the needs of our community. With an emphasis on preventing youth drug use, we examine data from West Ada School District and Meridan Police Department. Alcohol, nicotine and/or THC in vaping devices, and marijuana are the most common drugs abused by youth. The most frequent juvenile citation is possession of drug paraphernalia. Thankfully each year this analysis confirms the majority of youth do *not* use any drugs and West Ada School District reported a 39% decrease in middle school tobacco violations and a 45% decrease in middle school drug and alcohol violations last school year.

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### **New: Hidden In Plain Sight Drug Awareness Program**

Each year we welcome new partnerships and make strategic enhancements to improve our service to the community, offering the most relevant prevention education and best resources to families. This year we have a new Hidden In Plain Sight drug awareness program. With help from the Meridian Police Department School Resource Officers, this mobile prevention exhibit is staged to look like a teens bedroom with items often associated with drug use. It provides parents and professionals working with youth an interactive learning experience, supported by resources to help continue important prevention conversations at home and in the workplace.



### **Community Collaboration**

The true impact of our work is made possible through the continued support and dedication of our community members. We strengthen confidence in young people, empower families with knowledge and resources, and foster community resilience through these partnerships. A few examples of our many initiatives include working with Central District Health and Boys and Girls Club to deliver CATCH My Breath (evidence based vaping prevention), supporting families

through West Ada's sixth grade orientations, and engaging youth leadership through the Idaho Youth-Led Campaign Alliance in collaboration with the Career Technical Education program. Whether it's serving on the executive committee in a leadership role, making a fiscal donation to purchase parent handbooks, or volunteering at an event; each contribution helps strengthen our community through substance abuse prevention.

## *DRUG PREVENTION UNIT & MADC EVENTS/TRAININGS*

- Alcohol Compliance Check & Shoulder Tap Operations
- Breathalyzer Event
- Classroom Presentations
- Cannabis Compliance Checks
- CATCH My Breath Program
- Community Presentations
- Drug Policy Education
- Monthly MADC Meetings & Newsletters
- Parent Prevention Education
- Prescription Take-back Events
- Prevention Booths
- Public Safety Day
- Recovery Day Breakfast
- Red Ribbon Week

**98** *DRUG PREVENTION & MADC EVENTS/TRAININGS*

**26,561** *COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED*



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### Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit's mission is to develop and administer community-based crime prevention programs designed to reduce the fear of crime, reduce criminal activity, increase safety, and reduce the likelihood of crime victimization.

The Crime Prevention Unit actively contributes to our community by offering resources, education, and information aimed at ensuring the safety of our community members and businesses. Through community education, we tackle the root causes of crime and explore strategies to prevent opportunities for criminal activity. Prevention is an effective approach to reducing the impact of crime on individuals, neighborhoods, and businesses.



### Hotel and Apartment Group

The Crime Prevention Unit has been regularly hosting bi-monthly meetings with both the Apartment Community Managers Group and, more recently, the Hotel Group. We offer various training sessions, addressing essential topics such as human trafficking, property crimes, and crime analysis. These gatherings have become an invaluable resource for patrol officers and detectives, who have frequently leveraged our contact lists from these groups to aid in their calls for service or investigations. Officers can reach out to properties swiftly during emergencies or investigations, benefiting residents of multi-housing complexes and hotel patrons. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing appreciation for the practical tools and knowledge gained. Looking ahead, the Crime Prevention Unit plans to expand these programs by incorporating apartments and hotels from surrounding cities and adding online resources for group members.

### Realtor Safety Course

The Meridian Police Department, in partnership with the Boise Regional Realtors (BRR), is offering Realtor Safety Training. This class is designed to develop safety awareness so that real estate agents, as well as their clients, know how to prevent and minimize risks as they practice their profession. This class covers four main objectives: situational awareness, personal safety, crimes of opportunity, and scams. After the sessions launch in March 2025, three additional classes have been conducted, with further requests for future dates. Since the initial session, the program's curriculum was submitted to the Idaho Real Estate Commission and has been approved for continuing education credits. The training has proven to be an invaluable resource for realtors, receiving positive feedback and appreciation for the information provided.



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### **Meridian Chamber of Commerce**

Meridian's business community should have the tools and resources they need to create a safe and secure environment for employees and patrons. This is why the Prevention Unit has taken a more active role in collaborating with the Meridian Chamber of Commerce. By participating in Chamber events and gatherings, we have successfully connected with business owners and their staff. This approach has allowed us to open lines of communication, provide valuable resources, and establish a consistent presence for them to familiarize themselves with.

### **Scam and ID Theft Prevention Education**

Residents of Meridian are falling victim to fraudulent activities. It's crucial for everyone to stay informed and take proactive measures to protect themselves. This is why the Crime Prevention Unit is working with community partners such as the Meridian Senior Center, Neighborhood Watch groups, and local businesses to educate the public about how to recognize and avoid scams. Through seminars, and informational sessions, we're equipping citizens with the knowledge they need to safeguard their personal information and financial assets.

Additionally, they've developed resource materials, offering guidelines on what to do if someone suspects they've been targeted by a scam, including how to report it to authorities and seek assistance.

Through collaboration and education, we can collectively combat these fraudulent activities and protect our community's well-being.

### *CRIME PREVENTION UNIT EVENTS/TRAININGS*

- Apartment Managers Group
- Bike to School Day
- Community Presentations
- Coffee with a Cop
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Surveys
- Daycare/Preschool Visits
- Department Tours
- Hotel Group
- Identity Theft/Scam Education
- National Night Out
- Neighborhood Watch
- Personal Safety
- Prevention Booths
- Public/Youth Safety Academy
- Public Safety Day
- Realtor Safety Training
- Student Standout
- Story Time w/ An Officer
- Walk to School Day

**76** CRIME PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS  
**4,170** COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED



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## Additional Information

### Data Collection

The information we collect to generate this annual report also includes the event location, length of the event, and the target audience age groups. We examine different combinations of this data to evaluate how we can improve prevention education and outreach services for the community.

If you have questions or would like to request additional information regarding this report, please contact the appropriate contributor(s) listed below or the Community Service Commander, Stacey Pechin. [spechin@meridiancity.org](mailto:spechin@meridiancity.org) | (208) 846-7320



### SRO TEAM (2024-2025)

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Corporal Ben Brandvold	Officer Courtney Dozier
Officer Robert Allison	Officer Jared Haustveit
Officer Nick Anderson	Officer Cory Barone
Officer Leroy Sunada	Officer Marquise Mangram
Officer Mark Payne	Officer Robert Rodriguez
Officer Victoria Peterson	Officer Jairo Villasano



### DRUG PREVENTION & MADC

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