U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

Event Marshals:

Maintaining Public Safety During Events

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Relation Service's (CRS) in-person training course, *Event Marshals: Maintaining Public Safety During Events*, led by subject matter experts, is designed to familiarize Event Marshals with the key characteristics of their role and responsibilities in maintaining public safety during community events.

Communities sometimes experience tensions because of differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, and these conflicts may be reflected through public protests. When this happens, members of the community who are trained as Event Marshals are often in the best position to serve as points of contact for participants. The use of Event Marshals is an important factor in maintaining safety during public events. This training offers best practices to help Event Marshals carry out their responsibilities.

Course Goals

Explain the importance of the Event Marshal's role in maintaining public safety during events.

Outline the expectations of the Event Marshal's role before, during, and after events.

Program Overview

When conflicts arise in communities due to differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, public protests may occur, and CRS helps ensure community volunteers are trained in best practices for holding a safe event.

What Is an Event Marshal? This lesson describes characteristics of the role of Event Marshals, what they do, and what they do not do.

Who are the other key players? This lesson identifies the other key players involved with the event, including Marshal Captains and Event Organizers, as well as their respective roles and responsibilities.

How do you prepare for the event? This lesson raises awareness of the key activities for Event Marshals and the possible risks associated with the pre-event stage of any event.

What do you do during the event? This lesson focuses on the Event Marshal's key activities during each stage of an event when it is in progress, which includes the assembly, march, rally, and disbanding stages.

How do you maintain public safety? This lesson identifies potential issues affecting public safety and provides tips and protocols for communicating with participants and maintaining order during an event.

About CRS

Established by Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, CRS's services expanded through the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. CRS, a component of the United States Department of Justice, serves as "America's Peacemaker" for communities facing tension or conflict based on differences of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. Through the services CRS provides, the agency enhances the ability of such community members to independently and collaboratively prevent and resolve future conflicts through increasing knowledge, understanding, and communication from within.

CRS Programs

CRS provides an array of programs to communities experiencing tension. As a companion course to this training, CRS also offers *Reducing Risk During Public Events: Contingency Planning*. These programs and others are tools for cultivating understanding, improving collaboration, and preventing future disagreements. CRS staff are professional mediators, facilitators, trainers, and consultants experienced in bringing community members together to help enhance their ability to resolve existing conflict and prevent future conflicts.

Where We Work

CRS Headquarters

Washington, DC

CRS Regional Offices

New England
Boston, MA

Northeast
New York, NY

Mid-Atlantic
Philadelphia, PA

Southeast
Atlanta, GA

Midwest
Chicago, IL

Southwest
Dallas, TX

Central
Kansas City, MO

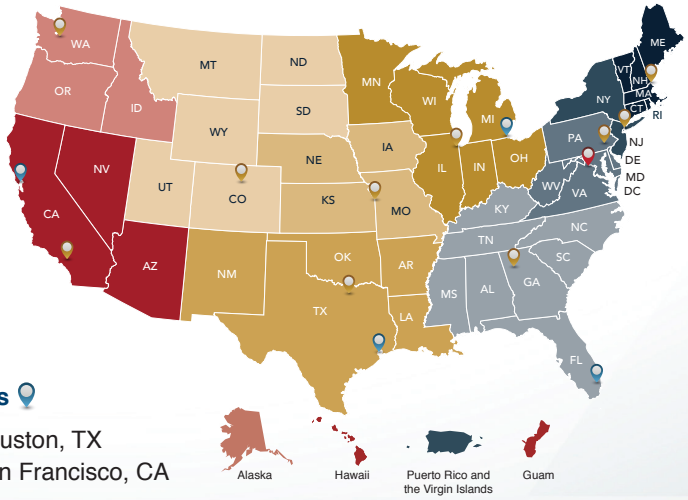
Rocky Mountain
Denver, CO

Western
Los Angeles, CA

Northwest
Seattle, WA

CRS Field Offices

Miami, FL
Detroit, MI
Houston, TX
San Francisco, CA



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