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# Press Release

## National Night Out events this week set new attendance records

*Kickoff party attendance estimated at more than 800; 19 block parties held*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (October 7, 2015) — The Arkansas City Police Department's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual National Night Out celebration was a huge success, according to coordinator Officer Chase Hobart.

The kickoff party on Monday night at Paris Park and the Agri-Business Building, 712 W. Washington Ave., drew at least 800 people, estimated Hobart, who also is a school resource officer.

"Both nights we had record-breaking participation," said Police Chief Dan Ward.

"The growth of this event can be directly credited to the hard work of the police department employees and the good citizens of our town."

The kickoff party featured a carnival-like atmosphere with an inflatable playground. The Ident-a-Kid booth and other vendor locations in the Ag Building were a popular stop for both parents and children.

Free hamburgers and hot dogs were provided by the Optimists of Arkansas City and Creekstone Farms Premium Beef. There also was a snow cone machine and a popcorn machine.

Cowley College student-athletes led positive, healthy activities for children who attend, including a 68-foot inflatable obstacle court.

The Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department brought an ambulance, a fire engine, a command truck and its aerial platform, as well as Sparky the firefighting Dalmatian and Freddy the robot fire truck.

The City of Arkansas City's brand-new snow plow and sand/brine truck also was on display.

A total of 19 block parties were held Tuesday night throughout various Arkansas City neighborhoods to provide a chance for neighbors to connect with each other. All of the events were open to the public.

**For immediate release**

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National Night Out is an event celebrated in communities throughout the United States and on military bases all across the world. It is an event for neighbors to show their support for each other and take a symbolic stand against crime in their area.

“It was heartwarming to see the overwhelming support of our community,” Ward said.

“Both nights were successful because we were able to generate positive encounters with the citizens we serve and the neighborhood residents were able to get to know each other a little better.”

### **About National Association of Town Watch**

Once upon a time, we kept our porch lights on. We opened the door even if we didn't know who rang the bell. And we always could leave the back door unlocked during the day.

National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is the nation's premier nonprofit crime prevention organization dedicated to the development and promotion of crime prevention in communities in the U.S.

NATW is a network of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime prevention associations, and concerned citizens.

Through that network, NATW was able to launch the annual National Night Out campaign.

### **About National Night Out**

National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored by the Arkansas City Police Department, will involve more than 16,540 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. In all, more than 38.1 million people are expected to participate in “America's Night Out Against Crime.”

National Night Out is designed to:

- heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts;
- strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships;
- send a message to criminals, letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

While National Night Out normally is held in early August, an alternate date in October is provided for communities that wish to have their events in cooler weather. Arkansas City has observed in National Night Out in October since 2011.

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National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, while bringing back a true sense of community. It provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Each year in August or October, neighborhoods across the nation host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts, and other various community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel and exhibits.