



City to Collaborate with Nationally Recognized Teen Preparedness Program

City of Wentzville

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The City of Wentzville provides day-to-day services that are essential to the function, effectiveness and efficiency of City operations. City departments work together to improve City services, programs, and events and to serve as a resource for its citizens and the community it serves. To learn more, please visit www.wentzvillemo.org.

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In order to offer the community more options for citizen awareness and emergency preparation training, the City will collaborate with the Mid America Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Mayor Nick Guccione hopes that this will help Wentzville strengthen its overall community preparedness.

Mid America TEEN CERT (MATC), which is based in Wentzville, was named the number one Emergency Preparedness Program and Youth Program in Missouri and the number one Child and Youth Emergency Preparedness Program and Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness in America for 2015. Working with surrounding cities and municipalities, the MATC training program enhances community education and strengthens mutual aid between police and fire departments, as well as businesses and organizations, should a catastrophic emergency occur.

MATC provides a community-based emergency response team training program, rather than typical disaster training; although, team members are eligible to be deployed if the need arises. By partnering with the Wentzville Police Department CERT, both teen and adult citizens can now take the training.

The training program teaches participants how to prepare for and respond to others in need, and do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves or others in unnecessary danger. Students learn to provide basic medical aid, search for and rescue victims safely, manage utilities and put out small fires, organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective, and collect disaster intelligence to support first-responder efforts.

One thing that makes MATC unique is that the standard curriculum also includes additional disaster-related topics, such as requirements from several Boy Scout and Girl Scout merit and interest project badges. For example, in addition to a Boy Scout receiving the state-issued TEEN CERT certificate of program completion, they have the opportunity to earn their Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, Fire Safety, Safety, Disabilities Awareness, Search and Rescue and Wilderness Survival merit badges. Girl Scouts can earn interest project badges in Emergency Preparedness, Outdoor Survival, Backpacking and Camping.

The MATC program offers training to anyone 12 years and older. The program will include information and emphasis on team building, trust and emotional health, as well as a unit on assisting people with functional and mobility special needs considerations.

To learn more, please call Officer Michael Toney at (636) 639-2104.

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