SPRING BREAK CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Are you or your teenagers heading out of town for Spring Break? Make sure you take the following precautions to make it a memorable and safe one!

For teenagers and young adults:
Follow the Buddy system. “Come with your friends, leave with your friends.” Watch out for each other and if you see someone in your group heading into trouble, steer them away as fast as possible. This includes not letting strangers into your hotel/condo rooms, etc. Enjoy meeting new people, but do it in a safe manner, in a public place.

Protect your identity and assets. Make copies of your credit cards, Passport/ID, and keep one of each in the hotel safe at all times. Do not wear your real or glitzy jewelry. You do not want the attention of a thief, pickpocket or robber. When you are out and about, keep your valuable possessions including camera, ID, and money as concealed as possible.

Research your destination. Find out how far your lodgings are from the airport, or if driving, the safest and best way to get to your destination. Do not take short cuts not on the map.

When out and about in an unfamiliar location, at a party, with others enjoying their vacation, be aware of your surroundings, alert to things around you, and avoid problem areas. If you see people fighting, back away from the area. Don’t drink so much you cannot make sound decisions. Don’t accept drinks from strangers unless the bartender/waiter hands it to you. Don’t leave your drink unattended and know your limits when it comes to alcohol. In a large group, choose a Designated Driver to make sure you all get back ok.

When ordering a Lyft or Uber, make sure the photo/license plate matches the car you are getting in. If you’re in a foreign country where language is a barrier, always get a business card from the hotel’s front desk. At any time, you can show that to a taxi driver or police officer to help you get back.

If you are going on a cruise, don’t drink in excess. Follow the rules and recognize that other people are on the ship. Cruise ships are enforcing appropriate attire and behavior.

Stay connected. Let your family/friends know where you will be staying and check in on a regular basis. Make sure your phone is fully charged at all times and carry a back up charger. Research how to dial for help in foreign countries.

Keep your guard up. Spring break locations often foster a “hook up” climate, but know that at any time you have every right to get away from anyone pressuring you or making you uncomfortable. If you are going out with a stranger, let someone know who you are going with, where, the time you are expected back, and stay in a public place.

Special Alert For Pedestrians!
When waiting at a corner to cross traffic, always be aware of the vehicle traffic!
Stand back away from the corner to allow any vehicles turning your direction room to come up onto the sidewalk. On corners that have a stop light, stand back until the “walk” signal comes on.
Always be aware of any traffic trying to make a right turn in front of you. Always yield to the traffic, even if you have the right-of-way with the walk signal.
Never try to cross the street with ear buds in, talking or texting on the cellphone. Look both ways before crossing!! Watch the Traffic and Never cross in the middle of the block!!!
TIPS FOR FAMILY SPRING BREAK VACATIONS

~ Don’t advertise your vacation plans. Social media is a great way to share your experiences and photos, AFTER you get back! Even under privacy settings, your information is out there. All your social media followers can see what you are up to and spread the word.
~ When on vacation, don’t leave your house looking empty. Leave lights on timers, open the blinds slightly, in a manner from the outside they can only see your ceiling,
~ Have a neighbor or friend pick up your mail, or if they are unavailable, stop the mail and newspapers.
~ Ask a friend or neighbor to regularly visit your home and make the home look lived in, like taking out the trash, removing notices/advertisements, pull/kill weeds, water plants, etc.
~ If you have not already, insert a wooden dowel inside the track of your sliding doors and windows.
~ Consider Travel Insurance. If you are going to a foreign country, make sure you have the required visas, shots, etc.
~ Make sure you bring a copy of your passport, credit cards/emergency phone number to cancel the card, and your travel info. Keep everything in secure areas, or exchange the copies with a responsible travel companion.
~ Book your hotel in a central location to limit the need to drive or get into a taxi.
~ Don’t wear your expensive jewelry. Hide it somewhere safe in your house or secure it in a bank safe deposit box. Wear costume jewelry.

SCAMMERS CONTINUE TO STEAL FROM “WILLING” VICTIMS

Scammers continue to steal from our residents in Mesa! Help put an end to this. YOU have the power to stop yourself from becoming a “willing” victim. There are several ways you can prevent losing your hard earned money to a scammer.

♦ Scammers try to steal your money and/or personal information. Scams may come through phone calls, texts, emails or robocalls. Often there is a promise of wealth or threats of jail, lawsuits or worse, if you do not give them money. We recommend you DO NOT ANSWER THE PHONE UNLESS YOU KNOW WHO IT IS. Remember that NO government agency will ever call you unless you placed the original call.
♦ Unless you definitely recall (kept a receipt or ticket) having played a lottery or entered a contest, you did NOT win.
♦ Hang up on suspicious calls.
♦ Be cautious of Caller ID. Scammers can change the phone number on the phone to make it appear someone else is calling.
♦ If anyone says to keep quiet about winning or the amount you are paying out, you should know that’s an automatic SCAM.
♦ DO NOT hand money over to strangers, even if the caller asks you to send money to someone else. You don’t want to be in the middle of money laundering or scamming someone else that will be traced back to you!
♦ If someone you don’t know asks you to send something for them, DON’T. They can send it themselves if it’s legitimate. Don’t fall for the lines and lies they give, no matter how convincing they sound.
♦ NEVER give your credit card number, social security, or bank account information to the caller.
♦ DO NOT send money if a caller tells you to wire money or pay with a prepaid debit card.
♦ DO NOT send money to your new boyfriend/girlfriend you’ve never seen in person. They are NOT in a relationship with you if you’ve never met them. That’s one way they snag you in, conning you into believing they are your boy/girl friend.
♦ NEVER mortgage your house to help someone you don’t know.
♦ NEVER buy gift cards for someone you don’t know. Businesses do not accept gift cards for payment unless it’s for that specific business only!!
♦ You should NEVER have to pay for a free gift.