



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TO RECOGNIZE S.T.A.R.S. VOLUNTEERS

Modesto, CA –The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department will be recognizing the men and women who volunteer their time through the STARS program this Thursday afternoon. As a way of expressing appreciation for their service, and to recognize the contributions they make each year to their local community, the STAR'S will be holding their annual Christmas luncheon at 12 noon inside of the Empire Substation located at 18 South Abbie Avenue. Certificates will be distributed to each member to commemorate the amount of time they have volunteered.

The STARS organization is comprised of 53 volunteers who are tasked with coordinating a variety of community events throughout the Stanislaus County region. Some of those functions include, but are certainly not limited to, high school graduations, funeral escorts, county fairs, subpoena services, community parades, neighborhood watch programs and litter removal. Each volunteer undergoes background checks and formal training as a prerequisite to joining the program.

According to the most recent statistics available, STARS members have volunteered over 11,800 hours this year alone. Those hours represent a cost savings of over \$277,000 if the department had to use fulltime, paid personnel to work those previously mentioned events.

Sheriff Adam Christianson said, "Our STARS program is thriving. This group of dedicated adult citizens continually support our mission to keep the community safe. Their contributions to our Department and all the citizens of Stanislaus County are truly commendable."

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).