



## For Immediate Release

**HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA** — Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019, is the fourth annual National Coffee with a Cop Day. Around the country, law enforcement agencies, businesses, and organizations are hosting relaxed, informal get togethers letting citizens talk about issues they feel are important. Coffee with a Cop sessions are full of inquisitive individuals on both sides of the table. And everyone is building relationships, one cup at a time.

Coffee with a Cop's casual conversations help put real faces and personalities on each side, bring concerns to the table, and create better understanding of all involved. The aim is to provide everyone with a voice, enhance cultural awareness, and strengthen understanding.

According to an October 2017 survey by My90 following the first National Coffee with a Cop Day, 70 percent of Coffee with a Cop attendees reported a strong improvement in their feelings toward police after the events...even when they already had positive views of police coming in.

Participation in the National Coffee with a Cop Day has been strong, but the goal is to keep growing and developing relationships, and not just in the U.S. Five other countries joined in the day, bringing the count up to nearly 2,000 events in 2017. Visit the Coffee with a Cop calendar and find a location to attend: [www.coffeewithacop.com/national-cwac-events](http://www.coffeewithacop.com/national-cwac-events)

### **ABOUT COFFEE WITH A COP**

Coffee with a Cop began as a grassroots initiative in March 2011 in Hawthorne, California. The initiative was an effort to better understand the needs and concerns of community residents. Since then, Coffee with a Cop's mission of breaking down the barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve has successfully spread to all 50 states and 14 countries.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**[Lt. Robbie Williams](#)**

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## Our History

In 2011, the Hawthorne (California) Police Department thought, “How great would it be if we could have a day where police officers everywhere could sit down, have a cup of coffee, and engage with the community?”

This idea was part of a brainstorming session aimed at uncovering ways the department could interact more successfully with the citizens they served every day. The result of that brainstorming and Hawthorne’s subsequent event quickly spread throughout the country and then the world. The simple idea for building better relationships with community members caught fire, with other police and law enforcement departments jumping into the initiative. It was simple. It was effective. It was fun.

Firm belief in the value of the initiative by the Hawthorne Police Department and later support and encouragement from the Department of Justice has allowed the grassroots initiative to gain enough momentum to be in all 50 states and nine countries. With the goal of open, honest communication without the influence of agendas or speeches, citizens everywhere could benefit.

### TIMELINE

- **March 2011** - Hawthorne Police Department hosts first Coffee with a Cop event
- **May 2013** - Hawthorne Police Department partners with the University of Illinois’ Center for Public Safety and Justice to establish a national training program
- **May 2014** - Coffee with a Cop goes international, with Montreal, Canada hosting its first event
- **April 2016** - Honolulu Police Department’s first Coffee with a Cop session brings the total up to events in all 50 states
- **October 2016** - The Department of Justice’s Community Oriented Policing Services Office establishes the first National Coffee with a Cop Day

# NATIONAL Coffee WITH A Cop ★ DAY ★

**FOURTH ANNUAL ★ OCTOBER 2, 2019**

National Coffee with a Cop Day is a day dedicated by the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services Office to encourage communication and positive interactions between law enforcement agencies and the public.

The Day began as part of National Community Policing Week in 2016 and now continues each year the first Wednesday in October, furthering efforts nationwide to bridge the gap between the community and the law.

In small towns and large cities alike, police officers and citizens can learn about each other, form bonds, and grow important community relationships to help strengthen their communities, all knowing that other departments and citizens around the country are doing the same thing on the same day. United as a country; united in our efforts.

*"We have been involved with Coffee with a Cop since 2013, and it has been a great tool for our department to connect with the community. We had a local radio station partner with us, and they do a live remote with us at every Coffee with a Cop. This has allowed us to reach tens of thousands of people every month, and our community really appreciates the accessibility that Coffee with a Cop gives them to both our department and officers. For the first National Coffee with a Cop Day, we held six separate Coffee with a Cop's across our city simultaneously."*

**- BILLY BOLIN, EVANSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**



Coffee WITH A Cop

## By the Numbers

50

STATES HAVE HOSTED  
A COFFEE WITH A COP EVENT

10,000+

EVENTS HOSTED  
IN SIX YEARS

14

COUNTRIES HAVE  
JOINED THE MOVEMENT

5+

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT  
COFFEE WITH A COP EVENTS

2,000

EVENTS HELD WORLDWIDE ON THE  
SECOND NATIONAL COFFEE WITH A COP DAY