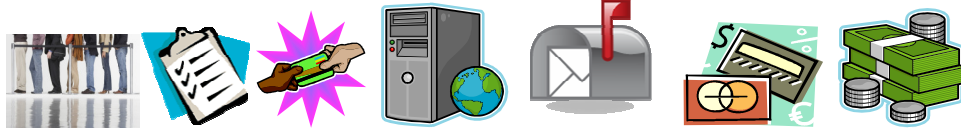


Arlington Heights Police Department

U.S. Census – SCAM PREVENTION



ONE YEAR Countdown to the 2010 Census! **What you need to know:**

- ✓ The census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and runs from March 30th to Mid-July 2009. U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov.
- ✓ Address Canvassing is the first visible sign that the decennial census is approaching.
- ✓ Approximately 140,000 census workers, hired from within each local community will cover most neighborhoods to identify each of the approximately 145 million residential addresses.
- ✓ In most cases, census workers will knock on doors to verify addresses and inquire about additional living quarters on the premise.
- ✓ Over 150,000 handheld computers with GPS capability will be used.
- ✓ Your participation in the census is required by law.
- ✓ It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- ✓ Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census. The Census Bureau cannot share your answers with the FBI, Welfare, Immigration or any other government agency. Any Census Bureau employee who violates the law is punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison.
- ✓ Census workers can be identified by the official Census Bureau badge they carry. Some badges may not include a photo.
- ✓ **Census workers will never ask for donations and bank or social security information.**

What you need to be careful of:

- ✓ Criminals will look for any opportunity to take your money, valuables or personal information.
- ✓ Criminals will use legitimate business names, logos and specific events to draw in their potential victims.

SCAM UPDATE!

A scam letter that appears to be sent by the U.S. Census Bureau is being received that solicits donations and credit card information. The mailer names the “National Census of Senior Citizens” and “Council for Retirement Security” as the sender and an advocate for senior interests. A number of questions are asked before soliciting a minimum contribution of \$14.58 or more by providing credit card information. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS LETTER OR GIVE OUT CREDIT CARD OR OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION TO ANY SUSPICIOUS SOLICITORS.**

Those receiving the mailer should call the Illinois Attorney General’s Consumer Fraud Hotline at 1-800-368-5438. If you receive an email or find a web site you think is pretending to be the Census Bureau forward the email or web site URL to the Census Bureau at itso.fraud.reporting@census.gov. After you forward the email, delete the message.