They help our kids when they’re lost. They’re on call at all hours of the night to mediate the worst domestic disturbances. They do all the legwork that drives a successful conviction when the law has been broken. During National Police Week (NPW) this May 9-15, let’s shout a big Woot! Woot! to our local police officers who carry the badge and swear to keep us safe.

NPW is celebrated across the country in many different ways. Our local police departments hold special events for families and kids, such as National Night Out and many other gatherings throughout the year. The goal is always to raise awareness about the important role these men and women play in keeping our streets as safe as possible every day of the year.

It’s not easy to be a crime-fighter and police officer. On a daily basis, officers witness the heart-wrenching destitution and violence experienced by the homeless, the mentally ill and the substance-addicted. They console the parents of missing children and investigate criminal acts. They see the tough side of life that wears people down and that many lucky people in our cities and towns never really have to deal with. But worst of all, they battle negative public perception in the very streets they patrol.

During National Police Week, wave and give a friendly smile to a police officer. And remember they are our front-line buffers between safety and chaos.

Let’s hear it for all our police officers!