

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office will employ enhanced resources to one of the summer's last major events in the county: The 28th Annual Hood to Coast Relay

,
August 28
and 29.

Teams of walkers, runners, volunteers and the huge influx of motor vehicles that come with them mean increased vigilance for public safety officials, and the sheriff's office is responding with additional manpower for the event.

Working with
Columbia River Fire
and Rescue, The Mist-Birkenfeld
Rural Fire Protection District
and the
Oregon State Police

, sheriff's office deputies, reserve deputies and Volunteers in Partnership with the Sheriff will be on duty in an effort to manage the disruption to our communities in the most efficient way.

"This is our opportunity to serve the community with extra manpower that we hope will make a huge difference for those we serve," Sheriff Jeff Dickerson said. "We will have commanders on duty throughout the event, with special traffic control available through our volunteers to help the surge of vehicles and event participants work its way safely through our communities."

Additional deputies will be assigned to the event on an overtime basis, to augment the patrols the sheriff will have to take normal calls for service

"This is our opportunity to exercise patience and understanding as this event disrupts our normal routines for a while," the sheriff said. "We will be on duty and monitoring the event to work toward a safe weekend for everyone involved, including our friends and neighbors in our communities.

"We'll be out there throughout the whole event," the sheriff said.