

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The role of police has always been of interest to the average citizen. The television media has capitalized upon this curiosity with shows such as "Cops," "America's Most Wanted," "Law and Order," and the CSI shows. Each week real police action is broadcast into the living rooms of millions of Americans.

Now, many police agencies have benefited from the curiosity that citizens have about the police. The agencies have formed Citizens Police Academy programs that are an expansion of their community based efforts. These programs are intended to open the lines of communication between the community and the Police Department. Generally, the relationship between the police and the citizens has been one of misunderstandings, a lack of trust, and apathy.

To the citizen, it may sometimes appear that the police are not doing their job or are exceeding their boundaries. By allowing citizens a firsthand look at what rules, regulations, and policies the police follow, some of the misunderstandings may be alleviated.

The objective of the Citizens Police Academy is not to train an individual to be a "Reserve Police Officer" but to produce informed citizens. The citizens and police officers meet each other face to face in a neutral, friendly setting and each becomes a person to the other. The citizens can learn what the police officers do and why they do things the way that they do.

In the past, citizens have simply seen a uniform, now they can better understand the person behind the badge.

Click [here](#) for an application to attend the Decatur Citizens Police Academy.

**APPLICATION FOR THE DECATUR POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

Name: _____ Birth Date: ____ \ ____ \ ____
 First Middle Last

Address: _____
 Street Apt City State Zip

Sex: _____ Race: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____ e-mail _____

Driver's License Number: _____ State: _____

Have you ever been arrested? YES/NO IF YES, FELONY _____ MISDEAMEANOR _____

Outcome of the case: _____

Please explain: _____

How long have you lived in Decatur? _____ Years _____ Months

If you have lived in Decatur less than 5 years, please give the previous city and state of residence

Place of employment: _____

Occupation: _____ Work phone: _____

With what organizations are you affiliated (Civic, Veteran, Neighborhood, etc.)?

What generated your interest in this program? Newspaper ____ Television ____ Community ____
Employer ____ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. The Decatur Police Department is hereby authorized to make any investigation of my personal history as deemed necessary for consideration to attend the Citizens Police Academy.

Signature of Applicant

Date

After completing application return it to:

DECATUR POLICE DEPARTMENT
ATTN: CRIME PREVENTION UNIT
P.O. BOX 488
402 LEE STREET, NE
DECATUR, AL 35602

Privacy Act Statement. The gender and race information requested is used solely to differentiate between candidates with the same or similar names and same birth dates. Neither is a consideration for selection to attend the Citizens Police Academy.
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