"Our program is not meant for couch potatoes! We physically train the cadets every morning and our class runs a 9-mile graduation run. Not bad for a six-day program! We provide to the cadets many classes, such as SWAT, K-9, building search, active shooter, high risk stops, alcohol/drugs, nutrition, Americanism, citizenship, truth behind the badge, taser and more! During the week-long program, each cadet submits a 1,500-word biography, so we will know the background of the cadet and how to help them become successful during the week."

Sgt. Dan Palmer, director, The American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, Department of Arizona

"It is a world-class program, one of which we are enormously proud - a program that has the potential to change lives. It is a serious, rigorous and intense week, including physical training, drill and ceremonies, motor vehicle and penal code instruction, emergency vehicle operations at the Consumer Reports test track, weapons training at the state police range in Simsbury, and leadership/obstacle course training."

Jack Monahan, treasurer, Department of Connecticut, and staff member, Connecticut State Police Youth Week

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

How to start a

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program

The American Legion **YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

PROGRAM GOAL

American Legion departments and posts are encouraged to sponsor Youth Cadet Law Enforcement programs in cooperation with their state police or highway patrol. While some departments use names such as Trooper Week Program, Law Enforcement Training or State Police Youth Week, it is recommended for recognition and branding purposes to use "Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program" which is consistent with Resolution 30 of the Spring 2014 National Executive Committee, which states, "Change the name of The American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program to The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program."

The program provides first-hand experiences and insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies. The program also affords these highly motivated young people an opportunity to consider law enforcement as a potential career choice.

Recruitment of high school students, both male and female, representing all communities and backgrounds in the state, is one goal of the program. Once participants have been selected to attend the program, the law enforcement community is charged with presenting a program that will instill an understanding and respect for law enforcement professionals and their techniques.

QUALIFICATIONS

The program is available to all high school students who have completed their junior year of high school and are in good academic standing. They should be of good moral character and possess a desire to learn more about the law enforcement profession. Their high school should recommend students who meet these qualifications to Legion posts who are sponsoring the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program.

HOW TO START A PROGRAM

Interested Legionnaires are asked to work with their department to select contacts who will initiate such a program. Contact your state police or highway patrol about the feasibility of starting such a program in your state. Once an agreement has been obtained, develop your curriculum, application process and dates of your first program.

Other departments that can be contacted for information concerning their current program are: Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia.

CURRICULUM AND DURATION

Program content may vary from state to state.

Most programs will include physical fitness training coupled with classroom instruction and hands-on training. Topics of instruction may include criminal law, constitutional law, patrol procedures, criminal investigation procedures, traffic crash investigation, evidence gathering techniques, arrest techniques, taking fingerprints, testifying in court, public speaking, leadership skills, vehicle operating procedures, report writing, interviewing techniques, crisis intervention, use of control and firearms training.

Most programs are conducted in the summer and last about a week.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Departments and/or posts should develop applications and a process to select, approve and place students into this program. State police or highway patrol agencies should be contacted to assist in or develop the course curriculum. Physical fitness certifications from a physician may be required of applicants. Release of liability forms may also be required.