

When and where are the classes held?

Citizens Academy Classes are conducted twice each year in the spring and fall. Classes meet one night a week for twelve weeks and are usually held from 6:00 -9:00pm. Participants are provided a detailed schedule of events prior to the start of the class that includes the location of each class.

How do I apply or get more information?

You can get additional information or apply online at www.jaxsheriff.org under the Community Involvement section. You can also contact the program coordinator at the Community Affairs Division (904) 630-2160.

Or send a letter to:

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Community Affairs Division
501 E. Bay St
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Attn: Citizens Academy Coordinator

Please include the following information in your letter so we can complete the required background check: your full name, current home address, home and work telephone numbers, date of birth, race, sex and Florida drivers license/identification card number.

Vision

Our vision is to be the premier law enforcement agency in the United States by being responsive to the community, restorative in character, and responsible to our commitments.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is to be proactive and responsive in protecting the citizens of this community, preserving the peace, and preventing crime and disorder while constantly guarding personal liberties as prescribed by law. We will maintain a high level of honesty, integrity, fairness, and trustworthiness in all relationships at all times, both as individuals and as an organization.



The Jacksonville

Sheriff's Office

Citizen's Police Academy

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Citizens Police Academy Information

What is the Citizens Police Academy

The Citizen Police Academy is a community-oriented program that offers participants a unique opportunity to become familiar with the operations of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

There has always been an interest in the role of law enforcement in the community, television has capitalized on this with numerous shows such as "Cops", "America's Most Wanted", and "CSI" to name a few. Police departments across the country have also benefited from this interest by starting Citizen Police Academy programs that help expand their community based efforts.

These programs help to open lines of communication between the community and the police department. Unfortunately, due to the very nature of police work, people can come to see law enforcement as a love/hate relationship. Sometimes, due to citizens having limited information to draw conclusions from, it may appear that police either are not doing their job or are exceeding their legal authority. By providing participants a firsthand look at the inner workings of law enforcement, we can help dispel some of these suspicions and misconceptions while simultaneously improving police/community communications.

The Citizens Police Academy is not intended to train an individual to be a law enforcement officer but to produce better informed citizens. Participants and those who complete the program will have no police powers. The program offers participants and officers/department staff an opportunity to meet face to face in a neutral, friendly setting. After taking part in the program, participants who in the past may have simply saw a uniform, leave with a better understanding about the person behind the badge. The input received from the participants helps officers/department staff become more aware of the feelings and concerns of the community.

What is the Purpose of the Citizens Police Academy?

The purpose of the Citizens Police Academy is to provide citizens who live or work in the Jacksonville area a deeper understanding of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of the modern day law enforcement officer. We believe participants that complete this program will have a better understanding of the many difficult challenges facing today's law enforcement agencies and officers. With better understanding, it becomes easier for police and citizens to build cooperation and find positive solutions to the problems facing our community. With the cooperation and assistance of the community, we will continue striving to reach our shared goal of achieving the best police service for the citizens of Jacksonville and to be *the* Premier Law Enforcement Agency in the Country.

Who are the Instructors?

The instructors are officers and Sheriff's Office personnel that will discuss their areas of experience/expertise. Instruction will be provided through classroom presentations as well as practical "hands on" exercises. In addition to classroom instruction and the practical exercises, participants will have the opportunity to ride along with a patrol officer or officers and observe them performing some of the many diverse tasks involved in police work.

What are some of the Topics Discussed?

During each session, a variety of topics will be discussed and participants are encouraged to ask questions and discuss topics of interest with department personnel. Some of the specific topics/activities discussed include:

- Program Introduction
- Sheriff's Welcome
- Presentation by Chief of Services
- Tour of the Communications Center
- Tour of the Pre-Trial Detention Facility
- Training Academy Director's Welcome
- Recruiting /Selection Process Presentation

- Tour of Academy and Demonstrations
- Shoot, Don't Shoot Simulator (Ti Training)
- Electronic Control Device
- Vehicle Operations
- Patrol Division Presentation
- Patrol Operations
- DUI, Traffic Law & Enforcement
- Community Service Officers
- SWAT Presentation and Demonstration
- Bomb Squad Presentation and Demonstration
- Community Affairs Unit Presentation
- Records and Identification Unit Presentation
- Communications Unit Presentation
- Criminal Law Presentation
- Tour of Montgomery Correctional Facility
- Correctional Programs Overview
- Firearms Safety Presentation
- Live Fire Exercise
- Organized Crime Presentation
- Internal Affairs Presentation
- Hostage Negotiations Presentation
- Detective Division Presentation
- Intelligence Unit Presentation
- Mounted Unit Presentation
- Air Unit Presentation
- Marine Unit Presentation
- K-9 Unit Presentation
- Graduation Ceremony

Who can attend and what does it cost?

Citizens who live or work in the Jacksonville area are given first preference, but anyone who is at least 18 years of age and has an interest in law enforcement is eligible to apply. A background check is conducted on each applicant and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office reserves the right to reject people with a criminal history. The program is offered free of charge, the only cost to participants is their time. Participants are however required to attend at least 9 of the 12 classes in order to graduate.