



CRESTVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Applications now accepted for Citizens Police Academy

by BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — Residents who have always wanted to try on handcuffs, sit in a police car, tour the county jail — just visiting! — discover the difference between parole and probation, investigate a crime scene, and try on SWAT equipment have a perfect opportunity to do just that, and more, at the 2019 Crestview Citizens Police Academy.

The annual free, 10-week course is a Crestview Police Community Services program and begins Tuesday, Feb. 19, and continues each Tuesday except March 19, which is spring break week for Okaloosa County schools. The course is limited to 20 participants.

“If you ever wanted to pet a K9 or blow the siren on a police car, now’s your chance,” Officer Sam Kimmons said.

Citizens Police Academy is instructed by certified police officers and includes guest presentations by associated public safety and judicial system representatives. Guest instructors include attorneys, a probation officer, firefighters, EMTs, and others who in the past have included a judge, a felon on probation, child welfare advocates and others.

Hands-on opportunities and field trips include visits to the Okaloosa County Jail, firearms safety and handling at a nearby shooting range, exploring a firetruck and an ambulance, and discovering what’s in the nearly 30 pounds of equipment on an officer’s utility belt.

Participation is open to any Crestview and North Okaloosa County resident. Applications are available at the Crestview Police Department or online at www.crestviewpd.org, and are due by Feb. 12. Applications must be turned in at the Crestview Police Department in person. Late applications will not be accepted. A background check will be performed on each applicant.

From petting a K9 and watching him locate concealed contraband to clambering into the cab of the SWAT team’s mammoth rescue vehicle, Citizens Police Academy is 10 exciting weeks packed with free memorable law enforcement experiences.

SIDE BARS:

CRESTVIEW CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

What: Weekly 10-week immersive course in the functions of the community police department

When: 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays starting Feb. 19, excluding March 19, plus one daytime meeting TBA

Where: Most classroom instruction is at Warriors Hall, Whitehurst Municipal Building, 201 Stillwell Blvd. Some field trips are also held.

Cost: Academy and materials are free, but participants must agree to attend the entire 10-week course

Notes: Applications available at the Crestview Police Department, Whitehurst Municipal Building, 201 Stillwell Blvd., or online at www.crestviewpd.org. Applications are due Feb. 12.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY TOPICS

Participants in the Crestview Citizens Police Academy will learn about these and other aspects of law enforcement and its relationship with local public safety and judicial organizations:

- Patrol operations
- Criminal investigations
- Traffic enforcement
- Crime scene investigations
- Criminal prosecution
- Narcotics investigations
- Crestview Fire Department
- Okaloosa County EMS
- State Medical Examiners Office
- State attorney's office
- Firearms safety and use
- Public information and education
- State statutes and guidelines

PHOTOS:

Photos by BRIAN HUGHES

Public Information Officer I Crestview Police Department

Citizens Academy 1:

Students at the 2018 Crestview Citizens Police Academy check out a pair of typical police cars and learn about patrol officers' equipment. Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 academy, which starts Feb. 19.

Citizens Academy 2:

Crestview resident Joe Coffield, a participant in the 2018 Citizens Police Academy, gets some pointers from a range safety officer before shooting at a target during the academy's firearms safety segment.

Citizens Academy 3:

An Okaloosa County Corrections officer conducts a tour of the county jail for 2018 Citizens Police Academy members.