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Orland Park Police Department Offers Teen Citizens' Police Academy



The Orland Park Police Department will again offer its Teen Citizens' Police Academy giving young adults an inside view of law enforcement. The department will offer a free two-day worksite-based program for village residents between the ages of 15 and 18, introducing teens to a number of the department's programs and responsibilities.

"The police department had a great response with this program last summer and they're bringing it back to give young people an opportunity to learn more about law enforcement," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "This is a great opportunity for kids thinking about careers in law enforcement to get a firsthand look at one of the best police departments in the State of Illinois."

The teen academy will be held on Tuesday, June 28 and Wednesday, June 29, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, at the Orland Park Police Department, 15100 South Ravinia Avenue. Participants must pass basic background checks and space is limited.

"Our inaugural teen academy was very well received last year and we're looking forward to showcasing the Orland Park Police Department for young adults again this year," said Orland Park Police Chief Tim McCarthy. "They'll get to see the many facets of the department and learn how public safety is conducted in Orland Park."

Participants will learn about recruiting, training, dispatch, patrol, K9, traffic enforcement/DUI, internet investigations, and more.

"The teens participating in the TCPA are going to learn everything they want to know about law enforcement," said Trustee Dan Calandriello, chair of the village's Public Safety Committee. "We want them to leave with a better understanding of the Orland Park Police Department and law enforcement in general."

"Chief McCarthy's opening presentation last year was very powerful," said Officer Charles Barth who leads the academy. "The chief used the department's annual report to show the teens the types and volume of calls handled by the Orland Park Police. We responded to 185,000 calls last year which was a real eye opener for these kids."

"The academy also lets us re-connect with many of our former DARE students and meet other young adults in the community," said Officer Scott Shuster, one of the department's DARE officers.

Orland Park's Riley Doyle-Odenbach, 17, participated in the department's first teen academy in 2015.

"The academy is a great experience for teens to get the inside scoop on the police force. It allows for teens to gain a different and truthful perspective regarding law enforcement --- especially considering the negativity circling the media," Doyle-Odenbach said. "If you are considering a career in law enforcement, locally or federally, I strongly suggest taking part in this experience so you can see what it's really about."

The Teen Citizens' Police Academy includes two eight hour sessions with lunch provided by the Village of Orland Park. Those who complete both eight hour sessions of the academy will receive certificates.

"Any time we can foster a better relationship between our youth and the police, it will go a long way towards avoiding other issues in the future," McLaughlin added.

Click the link below to access the documents required for the teen police academy. For more information, call the Orland Park Police Department at 708/364-8149.

[TEEN CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY DOCUMENTS](#)