What is the Citizens Police Academy?

The Citizens Police Academy is a free program that meets one night a week for 10 weeks. The academy is normally offered in the fall and classes start at 7:00 PM and go until 9:30 PM. This course is designed to give citizens a working knowledge of the operations and responsibilities of the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department. Our hope is that a better understanding of how your police department works will improve the relationship between citizens and officers.

Some of the topics covered are:

- Police Department History
- Courts and Prosecution
- Traffic and DUI Enforcement
- Patrol Operations
- Investigations
- Drug Enforcement
- Police K-9 demonstration
- Use of Force
- Firearms
- Police and Fire Dispatch
- Emergency Response Unit
- Fire Services

Classes are presented by police officers, fire fighters, drug task force agents, prosecutors, and dispatchers. You will also have the opportunity to go on a ride-along with an officer.

Academy Activities

As a participant of the citizen's academy, you will learn about the police department in a classroom setting as well as having hands on experiences.

The classroom sessions include discussions and case studies presented by South Lake Minnetonka officers, Hennepin County Crime Laboratory technicians, a city prosecutor, Excelsior Fire District firefighters, Drug Task Force agents, and a police K-9 officer.

The small class size affords more opportunity for citizen participation in the discussions. It also gives you the chance to get to know the officers and for the officers to get to know you.

Academy Activities

The hands on activities include:

- Checking the speeds of cars with a LASER

- Practicing traffic stops on your fellow classmates in a squad car
- Shooting official police firearms in the department's indoor range

- Field trip to the Hennepin County Dispatch Facility in Golden Valley

Who may attend?

To be eligible to participate you must be at least 18 years old and you must either live or work within the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department's jurisdiction. If you are selected to attend the academy, you are expected to attend at least seven of the class sessions.

How do I apply?

Please fill out an application and return it to the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department. There are only 12 openings in each class and the positions are filled on a first come first served basis, so apply early.

After an application is received, a background check will be conducted which includes a criminal history check. Prior arrests or convictions may disqualify you from participating in the academy.

If you are accepted into the academy you will receive a packet which will contain course details.

Applications are available at the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department or you can visit our website at www.southlakepd.com.

South Lake Minnetonka Police Department
24150 Smithtown Road
Shorewood, MN 55331

(952) 474-3261
www.southlakepd.com

South Lake Minnetonka Police Department

Citizens Police Academy Information

Proudly Serving the Citizens of Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay