

The Beech Grove Police Department is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the fourth annual Beech Grove Police Department Citizens Police Academy. Citizen Police academies are relatively new and are a contemporary concept in law enforcement that has met with great reviews in jurisdictions across the United States. The goal of the citizen police academy is to offer citizens insights into how police officers perform their duties and how the department services the community.

The academy will consist of 10 weeks of instruction and it will begin on April 5th, 2010 and end with a graduation ceremony on June 7th, 2010. The Academy will meet every Monday evening for a 3-hour block of instruction. Citizen Cadets will receive instruction in many of the facets of law enforcement including: The Beech Grove Police Department's History, Recruiting and Selection Process, The Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, Field Officer Training program, Criminal and Traffic Law, Criminal Investigations, Physical Tactics and Use of Force, Firearms, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Vehicle Stops, Narcotics Investigation, The Special Response Team, and our Police K9.

The instructors will consist of the men and women of the Beech Grove Police Department, including the department's several certified instructors in firearms, physical tactics, emergency vehicle operations, taser, and officer field training. There will also be instruction from the Marion County Prosecutors Office. Training will primarily take place at the Beech Grove Police Department however some instruction will take place at the Marion County Crime Lab, the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, the Coroner's Office and other locations throughout Marion County. Some of the highlights of the academy will include

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firearms training on the department's range, training scenarios with simulated ammunition, and a police ride along.

Although the Citizen/Cadet Graduates of the academy will not have police powers it is hoped that the Citizen's Police Academy will foster better communication between citizens and police through education. One of the main missions of the Citizen Police Academy is to create a nucleus of well-informed citizens who possess a greater insight into police practices and services. Graduates of the academy can share their knowledge and experiences with the community as the opportunity arises.

There will be between 14-16 Citizen/Cadets in the academy class. Applications can be picked up at the Beech Grove Police Department starting Monday February 8th and they must be completed and turned into the police department by March 19th 2009. The academy will be limited to residents of Beech Grove only, and all applicants must be 21 years of age to participate. There will be no cost to the citizens who attend the academy however applicants will be subjected to a criminal history and background check. Citizen/cadets will have a personal appearance, dress code, and behavior policy to adhere to. If anyone has any questions about the Beech Grove Police Department's Citizen's Police Academy they can contact Major David Heiniger at 803-9117.

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