Junior Police Academy

(616) 355-1140

This program is offered at **NO COST** to participants or their families.

2014 DATES: July 21st to August 7th.

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Each summer the Holland Police Department will host a Junior Police Academy for 7th and 8th graders (for students who have just completed the 6th or 7th grade). There will be one academy which will run for three weeks. Class sessions will be: Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A mid-morning snack will be provided, and field-trip transportation will be by Max Bus.

Also, travel to and from home and the Academy MAY be arranged on a case-by-case basis, depending on family needs.

Each day will consist of classroom instruction and a recreation period. Classroom instruction will either be listening to speakers from various agencies or on a field trip. There will be designated "fun days" where we will be going to the movies or Craig's Cruisers. All materials needed for the "classroom" will be provided.

A variety of topics will be covered during the four weeks. Topics will include the Court and Probation system, Holland Fire Department, the 911 system, Traffic Enforcement (including a mock crash), Firearms/Use of Force, and Crime Scene Investigation (including a mock crime scene). Discussions about "Creating a Perfect Society/Creating Laws", "Cultural Sensitivity/Prejudice", and "Goal Setting/Responsibility" will be included. The Finale of the Junior Police Academy will consist of a Graduation Ceremony (parents are invited to attend).

The Junior Police Academy will consist of about 20 students, combined from Holland area Middle School students, and Vanderbilt Charter Academy, Holland Christian Middle School, and Black River public schools. If room allows, students from outside the Holland District may attend. Selection is based on interest and input from school faculty and School Resource Officers. We will require the student have 100% attendance (unless sick or other excused absence) and behavior similar to attending school. If the student cannot attend a majority of the sessions, he/she will not graduate and another student will replace them.

Goals and Objectives for the Academy:

•Offer student opportunities to learn and understanding the workings of the Holland Police Department and the Criminal Justice System.
•Give students a sense of community ownership and how the Criminal Justice System fits into serving the community. Also, show the students how the "TEAM" or community concept of work is used between area Police, Fire, and the Citizens to work together in a partnership.

•Add structure during the summer vacation.

Criteria for Student Selection:

•Have successfully completed the 6th or 7th grade.
•Have no serious history of aggravated assaults or weapons violations. A case by case review will be conducted.
•An interest in attending and contributing to the academy.
•A student with no gang affiliation and any student seeking a way to leave the gang/violent environment. A student who feels trapped by gangs/violence.
•Those committed to changing their attitude and lifestyle and/or are interested in Law Enforcement.
•Recommendations from School Resource Officer and school faculty.
•Allow faculty to pre-select high risk, middle, and low risk students who have a compatible blend.
•Parents will be invited to meet with the Junior Police Academy representative and must consent in writing to commit their son or daughter to attend.
•Allow for a substitute roster in case those initially starting the academy fail to attend.
•No gang attire, or any other mode of dress which is deemed inappropriate by officers will be allowed (i.e.: colors, music groups, short shirts/shorts, etc).
•While the academy is in session, it will be treated as a "closed campus" session (no one leaving before classes/activities have ended).
Rules of Conduct and Expectations:
•Must be respectful at all times
•No put downs.
•No swearing.
•No short shorts or cut off t-shirts.
?All recruits will wear matching t-shirts provided by HPD, or student-provided white t-shirts.
?Shorts must be knee length or mid thigh.
?Wear tennis shoes every day.
•No gang attire, signs, or language.
•No weapons.
•Must remain Violence free, Gang free, and Drug free.
•Have 100% attendance.
•Must participate in class.
•Must be on time for all activities.
•A phone call to Ofc. Weatherwax is mandatory if a student is ill or will not be able to attend.

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The above established rules and expectations must be followed by all students. If any student chooses to go against the rules or not follow through with the expectations it will be grounds for dismissal from the program.

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