

What is a “Citizens’ Police Academy”?

The Citizens’ Academy is an eight-week program designed to provide Gaston County residents, in an academy setting, first-hand information about how their Police Department works.

Participation in the fall Academy requires an eight-week commitment. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Two Saturday classes will take place along with the Thursday evening classes during each session. Classes for both sessions will be held at the Gaston County Police Department, 420 W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, unless otherwise specified.

What is the purpose of the Academy?

The Academy is designed to increase understanding between citizens and the police through education. Our intent is to acquaint citizens with law enforcement’s role in the criminal justice system, and provide increased understanding of the tasks police officers face in their daily work. With better understanding, it becomes easier for police and citizens to find realistic solutions to neighborhood problems.

What subjects are included?

The sessions begin with the presentation of the Department’s philosophy toward Community Oriented Policing. Sessions likely will include classes on Community Policing, Property & Evidence, Patrol Procedures, Criminal Investigations, Special Investigations, Crime Scene Search, Recruiting, Marine Unit, Bomb Squad, Emergency Response Team, Animal Control, and 911 Communications. Upon completion of the program, members, if they so choose, may ride in a patrol car for one shift to see first-hand what officers see, hear, and are trained to do under a variety of circumstances.

Throughout the program participants are encouraged to ask questions and discuss topics with Department personnel.

Who teaches the Academy Sessions?

The instructors are officers and personnel from the Department who teach in their own areas of expertise. Each has years of training and experience in the subject. The officers also bring street experience into the classroom.

How are participants selected?

The Department attempts to reflect the broadest possible range within our community; to include young and old, men and women, and representatives of special ethnic, cultural and civic groups.

How to apply...

Sessions of the Citizens’ Police Academy begin in the spring and fall. There is no fee for the Academy. Complete and return the accompanying application to the Gaston County Police Department. You will be notified if you are selected for the next session.

Community Oriented Policing

The Gaston County Police Department’s philosophy of community oriented policing seeks to create a partnership with our citizens. This philosophy encourages citizens to develop a sense of cooperation with police in our common goal of providing a safe and secure community for all our citizens. The Citizens’ Police Academy is one of several programs that have been developed from the community oriented policing philosophy. We encourage you to explore some of these programs and become a partner with your police in keeping Gaston County the unique and safe place it is, and can continue to be.

Citizens’ Academy Application

(Applicants are Subject to a Background Check)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Driver’s License #: _____

Social Security #: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Application Continued:

List Group Affiliations:

How did you hear about the Citizens' Academy?

Why do you want to attend?

Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, explain briefly (including charge, disposition and date): _____

For information, contact:

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Departmental Website:
www.gastoncountypolice.org

Citizens' Police Academy



**Gaston County Police Department
420 W. Franklin Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28052**



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