



September 4th to November 20th

2018

WHAT IS A "CITIZENS ACADEMY"

The Citizens Academy is a 12 week program designed to provide Whatcom County residents firsthand information about how their sheriff's office operates. Participants will find out what it's like to be a deputy and learn about the dangers and stress in law enforcement. Academy members will also become familiar with the sheriff's office mission, values and philosophy of policing.

Discussions between the citizens and sheriff's deputies will create an understanding that citizens can take back to their communities. Participants will be asked to share the realistic view of the sheriff's office and other departments in the criminal justice system with other county citizens to help improve the efficiency of law enforcement in Whatcom County.

PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS ACADEMY

To provide information to Whatcom County citizens so they can make informed judgements about the criminal justice system. Proper understanding can dispel common suspicions and misconceptions and increase police-community cooperation. The sheriff's office, in return, becomes more aware of the feelings and concerns of the community from the citizens.

TOPICS

Criminal investigations, patrol procedures, K-9, use of force, evidence procedures, firearms training, traffic enforcement, the drug and gang task force, emergency management, search and rescue, the criminal justice system, corrections, courts, prosecutors and public defenders offices.

DETAILS

The academy meets on Tuesday evenings for 3 hours. Each academy session runs for 12 weeks and is limited to 30 participants. The academy requires a substantial commitment. Participants are required to attend ten of the twelve sessions to successfully complete the academy and receive a Certificate of Completion. There is no charge and all materials will be provided. **PARTICIPANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE**

Dates: September 4th to November 20th, 2018

HOW TO APPLY:

Fill out the attached application and return it to the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office either by mail, in person, or by email.

**Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
311 Grand Avenue,
Bellingham, Washington 98225
acheesma@co.whatcom.wa.us
(360) 778-6600**

