



Citizens Police Academy Objectives and Applicant Criteria

In January 1997, the McKinney Police Department embarked on a concept of educating citizens of the community on the daily activities of their police officers, by conducting its first Citizens Police Academy. This program was adapted and developed from the few academies already in existence in states across the country, including Florida, Missouri, Nevada, Connecticut, and Texas.

The primary goal of the Citizens Police Academy is to foster a better relationship between the community and the police department through training, utilizing the philosophy of a "two-way lectern." It is envisioned that class members will:

- 1.) Gain an understanding of the operations of the McKinney Police Department *and*
- 2.) Develop an awareness and appreciation of the various challenges and decisions faced daily by police officers *and*
- 3.) Participate in practical exercises designed to illustrate various situations an officer experiences while on duty.

Attending students are exposed to a variety of police topics in the classroom setting. Emphasizing hands on subject matter, the instructors will present topics including:

- K-9
- Building Searches
- Traffic Stops
- Crime Scene Processing
- Emergency Communications
- Narcotics and Vice Investigations
- Tactical Operations S.W.A.T.
- Accident Reconstruction

From the class, the officers and civilian employees of the department receive valuable feedback on the level of services we provide to the community.

Requirements for application to the academy are set to maintain the quality of the program. Basic requirements include:

- 1.) minimum age 21 years *and*
- 2.) a resident of McKinney, *or* a business owner in McKinney, *or* an employee of a local business, school, etc. *and*
- 3.) involved within the McKinney community in some capacity such as working with youth, members of civic organizations, or others *and*
- 4.) no assault, weapons, or narcotics convictions *and*
- 5.) no other non-violent felony convictions within the past 15 years.

Applicants are recruited through the Neighborhood Watch Program, referrals by academy alumni, and city police officers. When an application is returned to the department, a thorough background investigation is conducted. This investigation

includes but is not limited to a driver's license status, criminal history, and warrant check. Background investigations are conducted due to the sensitive nature of police work.

After passing the background investigation, prospective students are invited to attend the academy. In the event the number of applicants exceeds the maximum, the additional candidates are placed on a waiting list and are the first allowed to apply to the subsequent academy session.

The Citizens Police Academy is held one evening a week from 7 PM to 10 PM for a total of fourteen (14) weeks. The course is cumulative with each class of instruction building on the previous lesson. The department believes it is crucial that each student commit to attending all sessions of instruction to secure an adequate insight into police department operations. Therefore, a student may miss only six (6) hours of instruction and still be allowed to graduate. Attendance will be taken prior to and during classes. Once a class member exceeds the 6-hour limit of absences, he or she will be excused from the academy.

Although academy students receive training in numerous police-related subjects, graduates are not prepared for, expected to, or authorized to conduct any police services. It is hoped that the graduates will become goodwill ambassadors for the Department.

Upon completion of the prescribed course of instruction, a graduation ceremony, photo session, and dinner banquet is held at a time and location determined by the class.

McKINNEY CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY APPLICATION

Return Completed Application to:

McKinney Police Department
Awareness and Education Officer
2200 Taylor Burk Dr.
972-547-2700

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____ Email: _____
(Not P.O. Box)(Number) (Street) (City)(Zip)

Home Phone: _____

Drivers License Number: _____ State: _____

Are you a Texas Concealed Handgun Licensee? Yes _____ No _____

How did you learn of the Citizens Police Academy? _____

Why are you interested in the Citizens Police Academy? _____

Will you commit to attend all 14 class sessions? Yes _____ No _____

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Occupation: _____ Length of Employment: _____

Company Name: _____ Email: _____

Employer's Address: _____
(Number) (Street) (City) (Zip)

Work Phone: _____ Supervisor's Name: _____

EDUCATION

Are you a high school graduate? Yes _____ No _____

Name and address of high school: _____

Are you a college graduate? Yes _____ No _____

Name and address of college: _____
Circle last grade completed: 10 11 12 AA BS/BA MS/MA Ph.D. M.D.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

List all community organizations in which you have been or are currently involved.
Include leadership positions: _____

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACT

Have you ever been arrested? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, give details including offense, date of arrest and disposition of your case(s)

My prior contacts with the police have been: Good _____ Bad _____

Please explain: _____

REFERENCES

List a person 18 or older to be contacted in case of emergency (REQUIRED):

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

List two personal references other than family members:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Please review your answers carefully and read the following statements before signing this application. Incomplete or unsigned applications will not be accepted.

I certify that there are no willful misrepresentations, omissions or falsifications in the foregoing statements or answers. I understand that any omissions or false statements on this application shall be sufficient cause for rejection or dismissal from the McKinney Citizens Police Academy after enrollment.

(Initial)

I further understand and hereby authorize the McKinney Police Department to make any investigation of my personal history deemed necessary for consideration to attend the Citizens Police Academy. I understand that this background investigation may include, but is not limited to criminal history, employment history, and personal references.

(Initial)

I understand that if I am a Texas Concealed Handgun License holder or become licensed during the course of the academy, I will not carry any weapon(s) into class or to any Citizens Police Academy or Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association function. I understand that to do so is cause for immediate dismissal from the program.

(Initial)

I further state that I have never been convicted of any violent felony offense, family violence assault; narcotics violation, or weapons offense, nor have I been convicted of any Class B or higher misdemeanor or non-violent felony offense within the past 10 years. I further attest that I am not currently under indictment for any offense nor do I knowingly associate with any individuals whom I believe to be convicted of, under investigation or indictment for any felony, not excluding narcotics, weapons, or assault offenses, by any law enforcement agency. I understand that I may be dismissed from the Academy if my behavior is deemed to be disruptive or if it otherwise inhibits the concept of this Citizens Police Academy program.

(Initial)

I, the undersigned _____, a private person, for and in consideration of the privilege of participating in the McKinney Citizens Police Academy, and recognizing that such activity involves certain inherent dangers do hereby agree to assume the risks attendant to such activity, to include motor vehicle accidents on either public streets or private property, and do hereby release the City of McKinney, its officers, agents, representatives and employees, in both their public and private capacities, from any and all liability claims, suits, demands, damages, including attorneys' fees, or causes of action, for any and all claims, personal injury or property damage, that I, or my heirs, successors and assigns may have or may hereafter acquire against the City of McKinney, including but not limited to: 1) motor vehicle accidents on public streets or private property; 2) personal injury or property damage that may arise from the acts of a third person; 3) personal injury or property damage that may arise

