

Sheriff's Cadets

1046.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Cadet Law Enforcement Program is dedicated to the education and involvement of youth in police operations, and to interest them in possible law enforcement careers. Our goal is to provide the youth of Kitsap County an opportunity to observe, learn and participate in various law enforcement activities on a first-hand basis. We provide an opportunity for service, practical experiences, competition and recreation. The program objectives include helping to prepare Cadets to become better citizens and community members through character development, physical fitness, and good citizenship.

Members of the cadet program participate in a number of events involving law enforcement. Most events provide some form of crime prevention, education or traffic direction for various organizations within the community. The cadets volunteer hundreds of hours to meet the needs of our county residents and to make a positive difference in their community. Cadets regularly participate in competitions that test their skills and provide a realistic application for their training. Training is sponsored by the Sheriff's Office and instructors come from various agencies within and outside of the county.

1046.2 MEMBERSHIP

Being a member of the cadet program is an honor and privilege. Trust is placed upon these volunteers to conduct themselves in an ethical, moral and professional manner. Any person holding a position or office in the cadet program does so at the convenience of the Sheriff or their designee. Violations of the law, sheriff office policies or those of the cadet program may be grounds for disciplinary action and/or dismissal.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Cadet program is sponsored by the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office at the discretion of the Sheriff or their designee, and is registered as a Learning For Life Law Enforcement Exploring Post.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Cadet Program is open to young adults ages 16, and graduated from the ninth grade, through 20, or to their 21st birthday. A background check shall be completed for each applicant, to include an interview.

As a prerequisite for joining, a hold harmless and release form for the agency and Learning for Life must be executed by the parents or legal guardian and/or the Explorer if of legal age to sign such a form.

All members of the cadet program, including the Leadership, shall be registered with Learning For Life Law Enforcement Explorers.

1046.3 PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

The Cadet program shall be managed by a Post Coordinator. The Post Coordinator will report to a Patrol Lieutenant and the program will fall under the supervision of the Patrol Chief. The

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Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the education and performance of the cadets as well as general management of the program. Post Advisors should also assist with handling the general management of the program. Along with the Post Coordinator, the Advisors will serve as mentors and teachers for the cadets. The leadership of the program shall meet the requirements of the current Learning For Life policy, to include having at least one male and one female adult advisor/coordinator.

1046.4 CADET MANUAL

A Cadet Manual will be maintained by the Program Coordinator and should outline its general management, to include training, uniforms, discipline, attendance issues and record keeping in regards to the cadets.

1046.5 CADET UNIFORMS

Each cadet will be provided a uniform, meeting the specifications described in the Cadet Manual. Those uniforms will be worn for Sheriff's Office functions only. The cadets will take care to conceal/cover any identifying uniform pieces when traveling in a private vehicle.

Cadets are not permitted to carry offensive or defensive weapons, to include firearms, batons, knives with blades in excess of four inches, chemical repellents or EMDTs.

1046.6 OPERATING COUNTY OWNED VEHICLES

To be eligible to drive a county owned vehicle, a cadet should be at least 18 years old and possess a valid driver's license. They should be proficient with police radio procedures and must have passed EVOC training for vehicle placement at least one time per year. Cadets will not run code (i.e. use emergency lights and siren to drive around other traffic) to respond to an emergency.

A cadet who is at least 16 years of age and possesses a valid driver's license may operate a county owned vehicle under the following conditions: The cadet must be directed to drive the vehicle by a regular deputy or the sheriff, for good cause, or, in the case of an extreme emergency situation where the regular driver is incapacitated or unable to give approval.

1046.7 RIDE-ALONG PROCEDURES

Cadets are authorized to participate in the Ride-Along Program according to the guidelines in the Cadet Manual. Those guidelines include possessing a valid driver's license and successful completion of basic cadet instruction. Cadets shall wear their uniform and a protective vest while participating in a ride-along and shall also carry a communications radio.

Cadets under the age of 18 should not participate in the Ride-Along program between the hours of midnight and 0600 hrs.

To the extent possible and reasonable during a Ride-Along the cadet will adhere to the directions given by their supervising deputy.

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Cadets should not participate in high risk calls, such as foot pursuits, K9 tracks for suspects, and covert operations. The supervising deputy responsible for the cadet must, based upon the circumstances presented, use his/her best professional judgment with respect to the safety and security of the cadet.

1046.8 CADET FIREARMS TRAINING

Classroom instruction by a Washington State CJTC certified firearms instructor will be provided prior to any cadet post member handling a firearm. A Cadet-only shooting range will be schedule for members of the post after classroom instruction has been completed. All firearms at the Cadet-only ranges will be provided by the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office. Cadets are not allowed to bring personally owned firearms to any KCSO range.

1046.9 PROFESSIONALISM

The relationship between cadets and advisor, deputies and personnel of the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office shall be of a professional and appropriate nature only. Sheriff's Office employees are prohibited, under any circumstances, to date or engage in any improper fraternization or undue familiarity with cadets, regardless of the cadet's age and/or regardless of whether the cadet may have "consented" to such conduct.

Sheriff's Office employees shall not entertain cadets, socialize with cadets, or spend an excess amount of time with cadets in such a manner as to reasonably create the impression that an unprofessional relationship exists.

Sheriff's Office employees shall not "friend" or otherwise correspond through social media websites, other than through business pages or websites, with cadets. Some situations may be approved on a case by case situation.