

Applying

All potential academy participants must submit an application prior to being considered for the program. Applications are available in the lobby of the LaPorte Police Department or may be obtained through the department's Community Policing Program Coordinator who can be contacted at the department's business number.

Qualifications

Admission is open to LaPorte County residents who:

- are 18 years old or older;
- have no felony convictions, (certain misdemeanor offenses may also disqualify an applicant); and
- must be subject to a criminal history check.
- willingness to attend the majority of class sessions

Next Academy Session

The next Citizens Police Academy Session will start on: **March 2, 2011**

Watch for media press releases on when applications will be available and for application submission dead-lines.

Any questions regarding the academy can be directed to the department's Community Policing Coordinator by calling (219) 362-9446.

The City of LaPorte Police Department

1206 Michigan Avenue
LaPorte, Indiana
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(219) 362-9446

1910-2010

**Proudly serving our community for
over 100 years**



Mission Statement

The LaPorte Police Department will provide efficient, cost effective, full service law enforcement to the citizens and visitors of LaPorte, Indiana in a manner that is responsive to the ever changing needs of the community through the application of proven community policing and problem solving strategies.



The City of LaPorte Citizens Police Academy

**Promoting Community
Awareness Through
Citizen Participation**

What is the citizens police academy?

Police agencies have formed Citizen Police Academy programs to create an expansion of their community based efforts. These programs are intended to open the lines of communication between the Community and the Police Department.

To the Citizen, it may frequently appear that the police are not doing their job or are exceeding their boundaries. By allowing citizens a firsthand look at what rules, regulations and policies the police follow, some of these misunderstandings may be alleviated.

The objective of the Citizen Police Academy is to **produce informed citizens**. The Citizens and Police Officers meet each other face to face in a neutral, friendly, interactive setting and each becomes a person to the other. In the past, citizens have simply seen a uniform. Now they have an understanding about the person behind the badge.

The Citizens Police Academy program operates on the premise that informed and educated citizens will be more supportive of the police officers and the department, and will be more productive within their own neighborhoods and communities.

The Citizens Police Academy does not train an individual to become a full-time sworn police officer nor a reserve police officer. The LaPorte Police Department has separate programs and application policies for citizens who wish to serve the community in these capacities.

Course Objectives

The Citizens Police Academy is designed to build a bond of mutual trust and respect between the police department and our neighborhoods.

The academy highlights the importance of citizen participation in public safety, so that we as a community may remain free from the fear of crime.

Academy students will gather information while being given the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at various functions within the police department.



Class Topics

Experienced police officers, instructors, and guest speakers from the community offer lecture, demonstrations, hands-on experiences, tours and engage in frank discussions about police operations with class participants.

Topics covered in class include overviews of our department structure, information on police recruiting and training, and hands-on experiences in various areas.

Other areas included, but not limited to are:

- Criminal Investigations
- Evidence collection
- Criminal law & enforcement
- Traffic law—OWI & enforcement
- K-9 unit
- Bike patrol
- Firearms training/ range time
- Home & personal safety
- Patrol Operations/ officer ride-along
- Narcotics & meth labs
- Gangs
- Police TASER
- Reserve Officer Program
- Honor Guard team
- Tour of the LaPorte County Jail
- Tour of the LaPorte County E-911 Center
- LaPorte County Courts
- LaPorte County Prosecutor's Office
- Victim Advocate Division

Class Schedule

Right now the Citizens Police Academy course is only offered once a year. The course is free and participation is voluntary.

Participants attend one night per week for two hours. Usually on Wednesday nights, from 6 PM to 8 PM. The duration of the course is 11 weeks.

All classes , (with the exception of tours and field exercises) are held in the training room of the LaPorte Police Department.

Citizens completing the academy program receive a Certificate of Completion at a special graduation ceremony. They are also eligible to join the LaPorte Police Department V.I.P.S. (Volunteers In Police Service) Program.