

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

EST. JANUARY 1987



69 COMPLETED SESSIONS
1,781 GRADUATES

(As of August 2009)

“UNDERSTANDING THROUGH EDUCATION”

The Citizen's Police Academy was established in January 1987.

The Citizen's Police Academy is an eleven-week (that includes graduation) program designed to give the public a working knowledge of the Austin Police Department. Each session consists of twelve consecutive Tuesday night classes at City of Austin facilities. The instruction is comprehensive and each week separate areas of the department are covered.

As of August 2009, 1,781 citizens will have graduated from 69 classes. Classes are hosted three times a year at APD Headquarters.

- **The fall 2009 Citizen's Police Academy class is full. We are no longer accepting applications. We will be posting the 2010 classes at the end of September.**

Cadet Training, Bomb Squad, Robbery, Homicide, Use of Force, Internal Affairs, Vehicular Homicide, S.W.A.T., Forensics, Recruiting and meeting the Chief are examples of some of the topics that are covered. Instruction consists of lectures, demonstrations, tours, and riding with a police officer on a ten-hour shift.

The slogan of the Citizen's Police Academy is "*Understanding through Education*". The goal is to educate the public about the Austin Police Department and to increase the rapport between citizens and police officers.

We hope the graduates of the Citizen's Police Academy become more aware and better informed about how the Police Department operates, and will encourage friends, coworkers and families to join the Austin Police Department in this rewarding program.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of conducting a Citizen's Police Academy?

To give the public information on how the Police Department works and its policies and procedures, through a series of classes involving instruction by police officers.

Where did the concept originate?

The program originated in Orlando, Florida in 1984. Orlando was the first city in the United States to start a Citizen's Police Academy.

What was the Austin Police Department's incentive for starting a Citizen's Police Academy?

We feel the more information the public has about the police department, less fears and misconceptions will exist.

When does the class meet?

There are three Citizen's Police Academy sessions per year. Students meet at Austin Police Department facilities. There will be a total of approximately thirty-nine (39) hours of instruction by police officers. All classes are free.

Who attends the Citizen's Police Academy?

Students range from 18 years of age and above. We have architects, bankers, homemakers, students, retirees, teachers, neighborhood groups and professionals attending the classes.

How do you apply?

You must be at least 18 years old and live or work in the Austin area. Complete the Citizen's Police Academy application and mail it to the address below. If you have any questions or need more information, call SPO Dennis Farris, at (512) 974-5941

When are classes?

The Citizens Police Academy is offered three times a year at APD Headquarters.

Mailing Address:

Citizen's Police Academy
P.O. 689001
Austin, Texas 78768-9001

Questions?

(512)974-5941 or Email; dennis.farris@ci.austin.tx.us