JOPLIN POLICE

Citizen Police Academy
Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is the Citizen Police Academy?

A: The CPA is an exciting 14 week program hosted by the Joplin Police Department. This program targets people in our area who want to learn more about the police department. This hands-on, interactive, behind-the-scenes course is taught by experienced police officers, who share their unique perspective on law enforcement.

Q: Does it cost anything to attend the academy?

A: The Citizen Police Academy is offered free of charge.

Q: Who can participate in the program?

A: Participants must be at least 21 years of age and pass a background check.

Q: Do I have to be a Joplin resident to attend?

A: You do not have to be a Joplin resident, but if the class is nearing capacity, preference may be given to applicants living within the Joplin Metro area.

Q: Are class sizes limited?

A: Classes are limited to 25 participants per session, so it is advisable to turn in your application as early as possible.

Q: When is the program?

A: The CPA is held twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall, the exact dates vary. When the CPA is in session, classes are held once a week for 14 weeks, usually on Thursday evenings.

Q: Is dinner provided?

A: The Joplin Police Department provides snacks for orientation, and dinner for the Graduation Ceremony. During the rest of the classes participants work together in groups to provide food for each class. Participation is strictly voluntary.

Q: Where are the classes held?

A: Most of the classes will be held at the Joplin Public Safety Training Center (5501 N Dennis Weaver Blvd, old Joplin airport terminal building). Other classes will be held at the Joplin Police Department Headquarters at 303 E 3rd St, Missouri Southern State University and the Children's Center.

Q: What do I wear to class?

A: The classes are informal. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as there will be tours and interactive exercises. **Dress code for police ride-alongs will be addressed during the first class.

Q: I have my concealed carry permit, can I carry in class?

A: Weapons of any kind are prohibited during class sessions and ride-alongs.

Q: What if I miss a class, will I still graduate?

A: This class is for information purposes only, so missing a class or two won't be held against you. You will still be able to graduate with your class. You may also make arrangements to sit in on the classes you missed during the next CPA session.

Q: May I bring a friend or relative to the class?

A: Due to space limitations and the regulations the CPA participants must go through to attend the program, participants may not bring any guests. If you would like someone to attend with you, have them apply too! Often we have Husbands and wives, siblings, or Mothers/Fathers and their adult children take the class However, participants are encouraged to bring one guest to their graduation ceremony.

Q: What if I have more questions?

A: For more details, please contact Officer Lacey Baxter at 417-623-3131, ext 649 or lbaxter@joplinmo.org or the JPD South Station at 417-627-8880.

