



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO OFFER CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Orange County, VA –The Citizens' Police Academy, sponsored by the Orange County Sheriff's Office, will be held each Tuesday night from October 22, 2013 through December 17, 2013. The majority of the program will be held at the Locust Grove Middle School, Flat Run Road from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., but the first night will be held at the Sheriff's Office.

The Citizens' Police Academy is a program developed to enhance the relationship between the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the community it serves. The academy is designed to dispel any misconceptions about how the Sheriff's Office operates and to give the community a better understanding of how police work is done.

Participants will take a tour of the Sheriff's Office and learn about every division of the office. Classes will include patrol operations, traffic and motors, animal control, school resource, gangs and narcotics, TRIAD, victim witness, courts and civil process, investigations and S.W.A.T.

Participants will also be given the opportunity to spend the day at our firing range learning about our weapons and testing their marksmanship using departmental weapons. Citizens' will take a tour of our courthouse and participate in a mock trial. The academy is finalized with the participants "assuming the role as law enforcement officers" responding to scenarios that we have created in one of our schools. This program is not designed to certify anyone as a law enforcement officer, but to give a better understanding of real law enforcement not as depicted on television.

The Citizens' Police Academy is open to all Orange County residents over the age of 18, Orange County business owners, and people employed within the county who have passed a criminal background check. Participants must attend 8 of the 10 classes to graduate. For an application; come by the Sheriff's Office, contact Capt. Jason Smith at 672-1200, Donna Lucas at 672-7219, or by email at dlucas@orangecountyva.gov. The deadline to receive applications is October 14, 2013. Citizens will be chosen on a first come basis. A maximum of 26 participants will be allowed, so sign up quickly. This will be an opportunity that you will never forget!

For more information regarding the Citizen's Police Academy, please contact Donna Lucas at (540) 672-7219.

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