



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

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Applications now open for HPD's 29th annual Community Police Academy

Program allows participants to learn about law enforcement through hands-on experiences

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Members of the Harrisonburg community interested in learning more about law enforcement in The Friendly City through hands-on, interactive experiences can now sign up the Harrisonburg Police Department's 29th annual Community Police Academy.

The academy gives participants an in-depth look at the structure of their local police department through classroom discussion and engaging practical scenarios that make the learning experience come alive. The program, held this year on Tuesday nights, 6 to 9 p.m., from March 12 to May 14, is open to all community members 18-years-old or older who reside, work or go to school in Harrisonburg.

Classes are conducted each week by various members of the department, and participants will meet with HPD Chief Kelley Warner and her Command Staff, as well as take a tour of HPD's headquarters. Weekly conversations and activities will cover topics such as:

- Patrol procedures
- Major Crimes Unit
- Special Operations
- SWAT
- Use of Force
- Gang & Drug Task Forces
- Firearms (with a trip to the range)
- K9 Operations
- Traffic Stops
- Vehicle Operations
- Crime Scene collection
- Crisis Negotiations



“The Community Police Academy is a great opportunity not only for people in Harrisonburg to learn more about local law enforcement, but for us to get to know our community better and make connections that will last a lifetime,” HPD Community Resource Unit Supervisor Sgt. John Hancock said. “The knowledge gained through this program helps to open communication between police officers and those we serve, and promotes understanding of the very difficult, yet rewarding, profession of law enforcement. HPD looks forward to this opportunity each year and encourages you to apply, attend, and work together for safer communities.”

Applications may be found online at <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/community-police-academy> or in the lobby of the Public Safety Building at 101 N. Main St. Applications are due **Feb. 9, 2024**. Participation in the program does not certify attendees in any way as police officers.

The *City of Harrisonburg* is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.

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