

CITY OF OREM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

On behalf of the Orem Department of Public Safety, I wish to thank you for your interest in participating in the Orem Citizens Academy.

Since the Academy's inception it has become a very popular program, not only amongst those who participate within the Department and the community, but also across the nation. Although there were other police departments that offered community involved programs before the Orem Citizens Academy, no other department has taken their program to the level we have achieved in Orem. We focus a great deal on hands-on experiences for our participants so they can gain an appreciation for what it truly feels like to be a police officer and a firefighter.

As a result of our unique program, many departments across the country have made inquiries to find out exactly what we do with our academy. Recently the Orem Citizens Academy was featured in "Public Risk" magazine, which has a circulation to City Managers and Risk Managers across the nation. Many departments across the country have asked for information or sent a representative to attend our academy.

Currently, we offer only two academy sessions per year. They generally start in April and August. Each session runs for twelve weeks, meeting every Thursday night. The sessions are deliberately kept small (twelve to fourteen people) to maintain the effectiveness of the instruction and create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Because of the small class size, and the great number of people interested in attending the academy, we have been forced to develop a method of selecting people to participate in the academy. A background check is performed on all applicants. A screening committee has been established to review all applications that successfully complete the background check. The committee then chooses those people they feel will best be able to benefit the City of Orem by their participation in the Citizens Academy.

Once again, I thank you for your interest in the Citizens Academy and invite you to fill out the enclosed application. Please send the completed application to the address given at the bottom of the form. Applications will only be kept on file for one year. After that, you will need to re-submit an application if you are still interested in attending. If you are selected, you will be notified and invited to attend an upcoming academy session.

Sincerely,
Lt. Ned Jackson

City of Orem

Citizen Academy

The Orem Citizen Academy grew out of a feeling that the citizens of Orem, didn't know enough about the workings of the Department of Public Safety. This lack of knowledge caused feelings of mistrust and a lack of citizen support for the Department. It was decided that a forum needed to be provided, where the department would allow citizens inside of the department. To explain why we do certain things the way we do them and provide the citizens with the opportunity to experience some of the emotions and frustrations that the Public Safety employee feels. It was also felt that it was important to expose officers to citizens in a positive setting, with positive goals. Giving the Officers a different perspective of the citizens and the community as a whole. The academy is not used to train citizens for mobile patrols or Neighborhood Watch. It is used solely for the purpose of exposing citizens to the Department of Public Safety and the issues that it faces.

During the twelve week academy citizens participate in various police and fire related activities. Citizens are asked to submit applications and are chosen to attend because of past public service, employment, or position in the community. Obviously we lean toward influential people, whose opinions and views are respected by others.

Curriculum:

Week One: Welcome and introduction of the Public Safety administration. A community education officer gives an overview of the DARE program and an Officer Friendly presentation. Tour of dispatch and the Public Safety facility. During a "welcome speech" given by the Director of Public Safety, a suspect storms in and shoots him, then leaves. The citizens are then told they have just witnessed a crime and asked to participate as witnesses and give descriptions of the suspect. The suspect is then brought back in to see how they did.

Week Two: The class is taken to the firearm range, to shoot pistols and shotguns. This familiarizes them with the specific problems facing officers in life and death situations. They are taken through a qualification course, and a decision course. They also observe a sniper demonstration. A barbecue is also provided.

Week Three: Citizens receive training related to building searches and family fights. They are divided into three groups, and rotate through three scenarios. They respond to a staged burglary, where they search the building and locate suspects that they have to arrest. They respond to a family fight that they have to resolve. The Officers who respond with them and will give advice if necessary but allow the citizens to deal with both situations as if they were the investigating Officers. The third exercise uses video training tapes to place them in Shoot - Don't Shoot situations. After each situation an Officer discusses their decision with them.

Week Four: Citizens receive training on "high"(felony-occupant is violent and thought to be armed) and "low" (regular traffic stops) risk traffic stops. They are again divided into three groups and rotate through three scenarios. They are dispatched to an armed robbery.

They locate the suspects who have left in a vehicle. They then make a felony stop. Once the suspect vehicle is stopped the citizens take over and run the felony stop. They must talk the suspects out of the car, take them into custody and search the vehicle. The citizens report that the experience is very unsettling and eye opening. At the next scenario the group is divided further, so an individual citizen is paired with an Officer. They are then taken to a location to watch for stop sign violations. Shortly a "suspect" runs the stop sign. The Officer makes a traffic stop. Again once the stop is made the citizen handles the stop from there. The Officer accompanies them to the driver's window. We try to make them think they are dealing with a real violator, and if they decide to issue a citation that they are issuing a real one. The last scenario places the citizens with a traffic officer who demonstrates how radar works. This Officer runs the radar for real and attempts to make real stops. The citizens are told the Officer will issue the citations himself since you have to be certified to run radar.

- Week Five: The citizens are given a presentation on gangs and narcotics. Experienced task force Officers gives both presentations. The Officers use show and tell with items such as drugs, paraphernalia, and weapons taken from gangs as well as videos and slides. This session always goes long, because of the many questions and concerns expressed by the citizens related to these issues.
- Week Six: Citizens are given instruction on evidence collection, investigative techniques, and procedures for obtaining search warrants. They are then divided into two groups, while one group is given a demonstration on collecting fingerprints, casting foot prints, and tracking " bugged" property, the other group is taken to a mock homicide scene. They attempt to solve the crime by investigating the scene, collecting evidence and interviewing suspects and witnesses.
- Week Seven: Child abuse, sexual abuse and juvenile crimes are discussed. Recent trends are given and citizens are shown edited slides of child abuse and sexual abuse investigations. The evening is very emotional and many tears are shed by those attending. Our Victim Advocates also give them a presentation of Domestic Violence.
- Week Eight: This week is held in the Circuit Court building. Several of the Citizens are subpoenaed into court to testify against the defendant they issued the traffic citation to. We try to pick citizen to testify who still think they wrote a real ticket. The trials are held before real circuit court judges with actual prosecution and defense attorneys representing the city and defendant. After the trials the City Attorney discusses some of the legal issues facing the department.
- Week Nine: This week begins the Fire Division section. The city's Emergency Medical Services are discussed and Citizens are given instruction on the various emergencies that paramedics and firemen face. The citizens are broken up into three groups and assigned to engine companies. If the firemen respond to an emergency the citizens go with them. A mock emergency is also staged, where the citizens respond and use the knowledge

they have gained during the prior discussion. Again we try to make them think it's real for as long as possible.

Week Ten: Citizens are given instruction on hazardous materials and the related issues facing the fire division. A volunteer is placed in a fully encapsulated hazardous material protection suit. This clearly illustrates why hazardous materials operations are so costly. They are also given instruction on vehicle extrication methods and equipment. Citizens get the opportunity to remove doors, windows, steering column, and roofs from wrecked vehicles.

Week Eleven: Citizens are given instruction on fire suppression and rescue. An abandoned home is set on fire, and controlled by fire personnel. Citizens then accompany additional firemen into the home (Yes, it is still on fire) and rescue victims. Citizens then assist the firemen in putting out the fire. The general feeling of the Citizens is that they are glad that someone else is willing to do this job, so they don't have to.

Week Twelve Graduation... A dinner is hosted by the department, during which the citizens are given certificates of completion. A discussion is had about the information and experiences they have gained, and how their individual opinions and feelings about police, fire and more specifically the Orem Department of Public Safety may have changed.

There are two Citizen Academy sessions per year, containing fourteen members each. The Citizen Academy has generated a lot of newspaper and television exposure for the department and has been a very positive experience for the citizens and the City alike. The only down side to the academy is the expense. It is very intensive and requires many hours of overtime to conduct. Each session costs the department \$4900 dollars in overtime, materials, and related expenses. The department feels that even at this high cost, the program has been a enormous success and benefit to the department, and feels that it is primarily responsible for the favorable ratings that have been received from community surveys.

The cost related to the Citizen Academy are broken down below:

Overtime for off duty employees:	\$3950
Materials	\$ 100
Additional expenses	\$ 850

\$4900

Yearly total \$9800

In this day and age of community oriented policing, we feel that the Orem Citizen Academy is a shining example of how lines of communication can be opened, ideas can be exchanged, and problems solved, if citizens and city government cooperate and work together.

Attached is a series of newspaper articles that further explain how the Citizen Academy has been received and used by its Citizens. A reporter who attended one of the sessions wrote the series. Videotape that was made several years ago of one of the classes, as they went through is also included.

For further information please contact Lt. Ned Jackson (801) 229-7202 .

OREM CITIZENS ACADEMY APPLICATION

LAST NAME_
HOME ADDRESS

FIRST MIDDLE
CITY

STATE ZIP CODE
OCCUPATION
COMPANY NAME

HOME PHONE DATE OF BIRTH
POSITION
ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE BUSINESS PHONE

PLEASE ANSWER YES OR NO TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE EXPLANATIONS WHERE NEEDED

YES/NO

Do you have any health problems that might limit your physical participation?

Please explain condition

Do you suffer from claustrophobia?

Do you suffer from vertigo?

Are you able to make a twelve-week commitment to attend Citizens Academy?

Do you know someone who has already gone through Citizens academy?

Please list their name(s)

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense?

Please explain

Have you ever had any law enforcement experience?

Please explain

Are you interested in law enforcement as a career?

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REQUIRE AN ESSAY ANSWER

What interests you about the Orem Citizens Academy?

What would you hope to gain from attending the Orem Citizens Academy?

Name any civic groups, clubs or organizations that you belong to and explain your current status with that group(s).

How would you share what you have gained during your Citizen Academy experience to help the community?

Is there anything else you would like the screening committee to know about you personally or professionally?

PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Orem Department of Public Safety

Att: Lt. Ned Jackson

56 N. State Street

Orem, Utah 84057

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL