History of CPA

The concept of the Citizen Police Academy actually started in the United Kingdom in 1977. It began in England. A police night school was implemented to allow citizens, who were anxious to learn about founders received an immediate response from the public. They were soon overwhelmed with applicants wanting to know about "their" police force. The project was so successful it was permanently adopted as part of an ongoing police public operations program, In 1985, the Orlando, Florida Police Department adopted the concept of the Police Night School for their agency and created the first Citizen Police Academy in the United States (www.nationalcpaa.org/).

As a result, the Newport News Police Department established its own Citizen Police Academy in 1995.

The goal is for graduates of the academy to become ambassadors for the Newport News Police Department, spreading information and dispelling rumors and misconceptions.
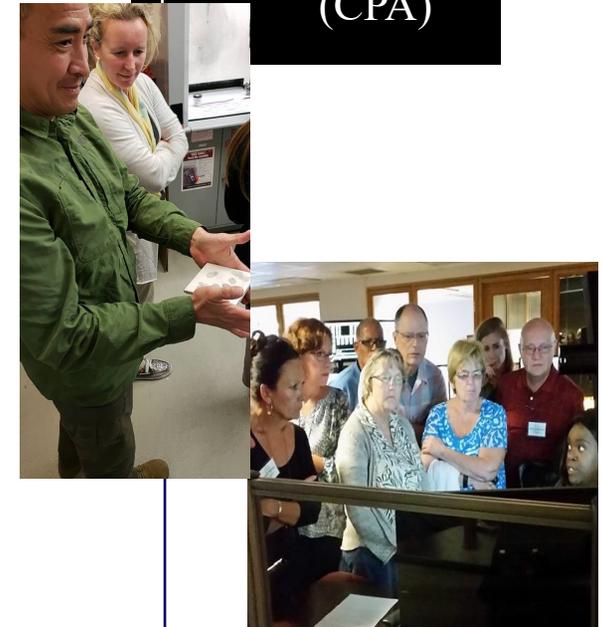
Volunteer opportunities are also presented to the class for those members who desire to continue a "hands-on" relationship with the Department. Have teens or retired friends who may be interested in the Academy? Additional information is available on our Citizen Police Academy for Youth and Seniors.

Continuous communication, interaction and cooperation between the police and the community on an informal basis foster understanding and develop ties which strengthen the community and aid the Department in its responsibilities. We want citizens to relate to police personnel on a recurring basis, as partners working together to improve the quality of life.
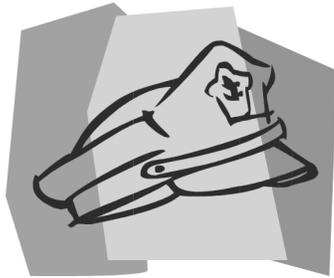
Newport News Police Department

Citizen Police Academy (CPA)

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Community & Youth Outreach Division
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Newport News, Virginia 23606
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Citizen Police Academy

What is the Citizen Police Academy (CPA)?

The Citizen Police Academy provides an opportunity for citizens to learn firsthand about police operations. Through a series of lectures, field trips, and simulated activities, citizens are provided training similar to that of an actual police officer. The Academy is of benefit to the community and the Department because it builds relationships and creates a cadre of citizens who are better informed about police operations.

Format

The Academy runs is twelve weeks, classes are held once a week on Thursday nights from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, with the exception of one Saturday set aside for the range. The program culminates with a graduation for the members of the class, their family and friends.

Location

Unless otherwise specified, classes are conducted at the Police Department's Headquarters building located at 9710 Jefferson Avenue in Newport News, Virginia. Some off site trips are made to other relevant locations

Qualifications for participation

- 18 years of age

- Newport News resident, business owner, or employed in the city or is in some way connected to the City of Newport News (*)

- Must pass criminal background check

Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Sample Curriculum

- Recruiting/Selection of Officers

- Criminal Investigations

- Visit to Communications

- Forensics Unit

- Firearms Operations/Range visit

- K-9 Demonstration

- Visit to the Newport News Jail

- Gangs

- Marine Patrol Unit

- Special Victims Unit