The Durango Police Department’s philosophy of community policing seeks to enhance the partnership we have with our citizens. This philosophy promotes mutual trust and cooperation between citizens and police, in a common goal of providing quality of life, along with a safe and secure community for all citizens. The Citizens’ Police Academy is one of several programs that have developed from this community policing philosophy. We encourage you to explore some of these programs and become a partner with your Police Department in keeping Durango the unique place it is.
What is it?
The Citizens’ Police Academy is a 10-week program designed to provide residents of La Plata County firsthand information on how the Durango Police Department works. The Department seeks to fill each program with a cross-section of community representation. Participation in the Academy requires a commitment of one night a week; classes will be held Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

What is the purpose?
The Academy is designed to increase understanding, through education, between citizens and police. Our intent is to acquaint citizens with law enforcement’s role in the criminal justice system, and to provide an increased understanding and overview of police work. As a caution, the Academy is not designed to make its participants certified police officers. The contents of the program are of an informative nature only and it is not intended that the participants have the authority of, or to act as police officers. CPA participants are encouraged to become advocates or volunteers for the Department.

Who are the instructors?
Instructors include a variety of members from the Durango Police Department, who bring years of experience and training to the classroom.

What are the subjects?
The sessions include information about domestic violence, patrol operations, traffic, community policing, tactical response and investigations, as well as a little history about where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. In one of the electives, participants will have the option of firing several different weapons. Each participant may “ride along” in a patrol car to see firsthand what officers see and hear, and what they are trained to do in a variety of circumstances. Participants may spend time observing in the Central Communications Center (Dispatch) and hear actual calls for service, as well as the dispatching of officers to those calls. Throughout the Academy, participants are encouraged to ask questions and discuss topics with members of the Department.

How to apply:
Complete this application and mail or return it to the Durango Police Department. Or apply online at:

durangogov.org/citizensacademy

If you have questions, please call 970-375-4701. You will be notified if you are selected for the next program. There is no fee for the Academy.

APPLICATION

Name__________________________
Street Address__________________
City____________________________
Phone__________________________
Email__________________________

Date of Birth____________________
Driver’s License__________________

Employer________________________
Occupation______________________

Community, neighborhood, civic group affiliations: ______________________________________

How did you hear about the Academy?
________________________________________

Why do you want to attend?
________________________________________