

FAQs OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPT. CITIZEN'S ACADEMY**1. Why should I attend a Citizen's Academy?**

Citizens Academies are designed to train residents of Doña Ana County about how law enforcement works in partnership with the public to ensure public safety and community awareness. At the completion of each Academy, participants will understand how complex law enforcement is, how we are trained to do our jobs effectively, and how policies and procedures are in place to protect both the officers and the public.

2. Where do I apply?

Applications can be downloaded at www.donaanacounty.org/sheriff. After you complete your application, you must bring it in person to the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department headquarters at 845 N. Motel Blvd., in Las Cruces.

3. What information is included in the application?

To be considered, each applicant must be 18 years of age or older, a resident of Doña Ana County, and have a valid driver's license or photo ID. Because of the sensitive nature of police work, a brief background check will be performed on all applicants upon consideration. Successful applicants will not have any prior felony convictions and no misdemeanor arrests within the last three years.

4. Why do I have to include my driver's license information on my application?

Everyone who is considered for the Citizen's Academy must pass a brief background check, including no felony convictions and no prior misdemeanor convictions within the past three years. Your driver's license number is used to clear your information through the National Crime Information Center. Because of the confidential and sensitive nature of police work, no one with a prior criminal history will be allowed to participate in the discussions and demonstrations related to the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department.

5. Where is the Citizen's Academy held?

The Academy is held at the headquarters of the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department, at 845 N. Motel Blvd. in Las Cruces. Some scheduled classes include tours of other partner agencies, including the Doña Ana County Detention Center and the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority. On those days, we make arrangements to meet as a group at those facilities. Transportation from the main station is not provided.

6. How long is each class?

Classes are held from 8 a.m. to noon on consecutive Saturdays. Each Academy lasts six weeks.

7. What do I need to bring with me on the first day of class?

If you are selected to participate in an Academy, all you need to bring is a willingness to learn. The Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department provides all materials, including light snacks and beverages at the beginning of each class.

8. What attire is appropriate for the Academy? Is there any strenuous exercise involved?

While our cadets are put through strenuous physical training, members of the Citizen's Academy are not subjected to any physical exercises or strenuous physical activity. All classes are observation only. Members should come casually dressed in comfortable shoes, and sunscreen is a good idea for the summer academies.

9. What will I learn in the Academy?

Citizen's Academy classes are interactive and give participants hands-on knowledge of how sheriff's deputies are trained to handle real-life situations. Class members will have the opportunity to ride along with a deputy, examine traffic enforcement, understand the use of force (including the use of deadly force), observe K-9 demonstrations and presentations by the Special Response Team, bomb squad, and Animal Control. Several field trips are included in the academy, including a tour of the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority and the Doña Ana County Detention Center.

10. How often does the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department host academies?

At present, the department hosts four academies each year.