



Mineral Wells Police Department and Fire Department Announcement of a Fall 2018 Emergency Services Academy

By: Lt. Patrick Adams

Have you ever wonder what your local police and fire departments do on a daily basis? Do you wonder why a police officer does things a certain way or wonder about the working conditions of your local police officer?

These are just a few of the questions the Emergency Services Academy asks its attendees to consider during a 10-week course that explores the many aspects of law enforcement and first responders. Hosted by the Mineral Wells Police Department and the Mineral Wells Fire/EMS Department, this is the 22st annual academy and we are currently accepting applications for this year's class that begins Sept 20th.

The academy is a 10-week course, *free of charge*, which is designed to provide community members with an opportunity to become better acquainted with our professional staff and to learn about police/fire procedures. The Academy will include classes on fire and emergency medical services, police patrol and investigative procedures, animal control, communications, criminal law, fire scene investigation, juvenile law, emergency vehicle operations, use of force issues, the role of prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges, and civilian assistance organizations. Participants will also have the option to ride with a patrol officer and witness the street- activity our officers encounter on a day-to-day basis.

The objective of the Emergency Services Academy is not to create corp of quasi-cops, but to produce informed citizens who are proactive for their community. The academy is intended to open lines of communication between the community and the police/fire department. By allowing citizens a firsthand look at the police/fire departments from the inside and how their operations are handled, citizens take away a better understanding of the police/fire role in the community. Additionally, citizens bring a wealth of knowledge about their community and particularly, the problems in their neighborhood. In this way, police are able to learn and better understand the concerns of the citizens and work as a team to solve local issues.

The course also allows students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in performing mock traffic stops, tours of the city and county jails, and a driver's course.

The class is limited to 25 students that are at least 18years of age. Participants are required to attend at least eight of the 10 sessions and conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This year, the classes will be hosted on Thursday evenings. Every effort will be made to maintain a balanced enrollment that reflects the total community and the police department hopes for positive community participation. A criminal history check will be conducted on each applicant and no participant will be allowed to carry weapons.

Applications may be picked up from the police department or on-line at the city's web site and submitted by Sept 15th at 5 pm for consideration or if emailed by Sept 18th. Notifications of acceptance will take place Wed, Sept 19th. Accepted applicants will be notified by phone or email. For further information or questions, contact Lt. Patrick Adams (email padams@mineralwellstx.gov), Sgt. Brian Boetz (email bboetz@mineralwellstx.gov), or Sgt Neal Davis (email ndavis@mineralwellstx.gov) at 328-7763. Information and applications are on the City of Mineral Wells website.