



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by
the Texas Police Chiefs Association



Media Relations Information for 08/23/2017

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Summer 2017 Advanced Citizens Police Academy graduation held at LPPD



Graduating class of LPPD's 2016 Advanced Citizens Police Academy

(Back row left to right) Officer Bishop, Gerald Dunn, Gregory Pavelko, Oscar Garces, Brandon Carver, Linda Higginbotham, Chief Ken Adcox

(Middle row left to right) Shirley Larkey, Gary Ritter, Katherine Green, Jimmy Eddy, Margaret Norwood, Anahi Najera, Brenda Pritchard, Joseph Sobczak

(Bottom Middle) Robert Murray

On August 22nd, 2017 the La Porte Police Department proudly hosted a graduation ceremony for the most recent members of their Advanced Citizens Police Academy course. Since the organization's resurrection of the long-time Citizens Police Academy (CPA) course in 2008, and the creation of an Advanced Citizen Police Academy (ACPA) in 2010, the La Porte Police Department continues to engage in both community outreach programs multiple times a year. Staff at LPPD have expressed that with participant numbers continuing to grow, the citizens of La Porte inspire their police to work that much harder.

In 2014, the ACPA was expanded to a 13-week program with the inclusion of training on Citizen's on Patrol (C.O.P.S.) duties. Under La Porte's C.O.P.S. program, pairs of specially trained volunteers, operating specially marked nonemergency vehicles and armed with a police radio, assist La Porte Police Officers by helping in the patrol of neighborhood parks and commercial areas, reporting suspicious activity, locating handicapped parking violations,

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reporting traffic hazards, identifying defective street lights, and generally providing additional sets of watchful eyes throughout the community. While C.O.P.S. participants are not allowed to carry any weapons, they wear specially designed polo-shirts and caps designating themselves as official C.O.P.S. Program volunteers. Outside of the C.O.P.S. training and activities enjoyed by the current graduating class, the essence of the CPA and ACPA programs remain the same in their other core areas: providing a working knowledge and background of the La Porte Police Department and other area emergency responders, while simultaneously fostering a closer relationship between individual police officers and the community they serve.

Each of the honored members for the August graduating class were former graduates of the department's primary Citizens Police Academy (CPA), who elected to enroll in the advanced course in order to seek further, in-depth, information on the operations of the La Porte Police Department. Graduates included: Gerald Dunn, Gregory Pavelko, Oscar Garces, Brandon Carver, Linda Higginbotham, Shirley Larkey, Gary Ritter, Katherine Green, Jimmy Eddy, Margaret Norwood, Anahi Najera, Brenda Pritchard, Joseph Sobczak Robert Murray.

The 13-week academy was taught one evening a week with each class lasting three to four hours. The subjects covered during the academy addressed various attributes of emergency operations, including: The City of La Porte's Fire Marshal's Office, Office of Emergency Management, Texas Parks & Wildlife organization, responsibilities of the Harris County Precinct #8 Constable's office, and the trial and adjudication processes of the La Porte Municipal Court. Course participants also enjoyed hands-on experience events, such as: Simulated Impaired Driving Experience (SIDNE) Drunk Driving Simulator operations, DWI evaluation, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), and Crime Scene processing techniques and responsibilities. Graduates of the 2017 Advanced Class will now have a direct avenue for community involvement and an opportunity to experience policing first hand.

As a highlight of the August 22nd ceremony, each graduate received a certificate of completion and the opportunity to join the La Porte Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. The graduates also maintain eligibility to participate in the police department's citizen ride along program on a monthly basis.

CPA and Advanced CPA graduates find an abundance of rewarding volunteer opportunities through a series of community service projects & varying station house duties. For questions concerning either of La Porte's Citizens Police Academies, please contact the Support Services Division at 281-842-3124 or 3183, or log onto the department's website at <http://laportetx.gov/488/Citizens-Police-Academy>