

## THE COMAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CITIZEN'S SHERIFF ACADEMY

The Comal County Sheriff's Office developed and implemented the Comal County Citizen's Sheriff Academy in the spring of 2002. This new community relation's concept will be a Citizen's Sheriff Academy with knowledge through education as its base.

The education is a two-way learning process: county residents, business people, and community leaders learn the inner workings of the Sheriff's Office while officers discover more about the lives and people of the community.

The program consists of 11 weekly sessions of three hours each designed to educate those in attendance in various aspects of law enforcement in general and the Office in particular. Each night of instruction will be broken into segments, each instructed by a volunteer member of the Sheriff's Office or a guest from another law enforcement agency or related field.

Classes will be held to approximately 40 participants each having made application, passed a background investigation, and selected by the Sheriff of Comal County and the Training Coordinator.

Participants will have it clearly explained that attendance in no way prepares them to function as a deputy sheriff or law enforcement officer upon completion nor will they be given any information covered under the privacy laws in effect.

It is hoped, and will be encouraged throughout the program, that the better understanding of each other's role in the fight against crime will result in closer cooperation between the citizenry and the law enforcement community.

We are very excited about this concept. We feel it is one more indication of our continuing commitment as an Office of the people to become more sensitive to the needs of the citizenry of Comal County.