

## *ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS*

### ***What is the Citizen's Sheriff's Academy?***

The Citizen's Sheriff's Academy is a unique learning experience conducted by the Sheriff's Office and designed to give citizens a better understanding of the operation and mission of their Sheriff's Office.

### ***Who can attend?***

Participation in the academy is open to persons at least 21 years of age, who either live or work in Comal County.

### ***What does it cost?***

There are no costs to the participants of the academy.

### ***When are the classes held?***

The Citizen's Academy is held once each year in the spring starting in February. The first classes are held on Wednesday nights from 6-9 PM.

### ***How long does the academy last?***

Each academy lasts 11 weeks with the graduation banquet held during the last week.

### ***What if I can't attend every class?***

We understand that those who attend the academy are usually busy people with tight schedules. Each participant is allowed three absences. Watching a videotape of the class missed can make up any absence.

### ***What is the penalty for missing more than three absences?***

After three absences, participants can still continue to attend, but they will not receive a graduation certificate and will not be eligible to join the alumni association without making up the missed classes.

### ***What do the classes cover?***

Each class covers a different topic. Areas include patrol, criminal investigation, recruiting, training, crime prevention, traffic enforcement, communications, and special units, among other topics.

***Is the ride-along or the firing range course required?***

No. The ride-along is strictly voluntary as is the firing range course; however, these are two of the highest rated classes in the academy.

***Who teaches the class?***

Instructors are chosen from many different areas of the Sheriff's Office depending on their expertise and availability.

***Do I have to bring anything to class?***

As a class participant, you will receive a three ring binder at the first class as well as a set of handouts. Each night you will receive a detailed agenda along with all the handouts for the night's class. It is recommended that you bring the notebook to each class. You might also want to bring a pen or pencil and paper to take notes on if you are inclined to do so.

***Do I have to be athletic to participate in the class?***

No.

***After graduation, do I get anything for having attended?***

Graduates receive a graduation certificate. The most valuable asset, however, will be the wealth of knowledge and insight from having attended.