

# AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

*EST. JANUARY 1987*



**75 COMPLETED SESSIONS  
1,900 GRADUATES**

(As of December 2011)

*"UNDERSTANDING THROUGH EDUCATION"*

The Citizen's Police Academy was established in January 1987.

The Citizen's Police Academy is a fourteen-week (that includes graduation) program designed to give the public a working knowledge of the Austin Police Department. **Each session consists of fourteen consecutive Tuesday night classes** at City of Austin facilities. The instruction is comprehensive and each week separate areas of the department are covered.

As of May, 2011, 1,880 citizens will have graduated from 74 classes. Classes are hosted two times a year at APD Headquarters.

- **Class 76 Spring of 2012**; Evening classes March 20-June 19 with hours; 5:30p – 9:30 p.
- **Class 77 Fall of 2012** Evening classes September 11- December 11 with hours; 5:30p- 9:30p.

Cadet Training, Bomb Squad, Robbery, Homicide, Use of Force, Internal Affairs, Vehicular Homicide, S.W.A.T., Forensics, Recruiting and meeting the Chief are examples of some of the topics that are covered. Instruction consists of lectures, demonstrations, tours, and riding with a police officer on a ten-hour shift.

The slogan of the Citizen's Police Academy is "*Understanding through Education*". The goal is to educate the public about the Austin Police Department and to increase the rapport between citizens and police officers.

We hope the graduates of the Citizen's Police Academy become more aware and better informed about how the Police Department operates, and will encourage friends, coworkers and families to join the Austin Police Department in this rewarding program.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the purpose of conducting a Citizen's Police Academy?**

To give the public information on how the Police Department works and its policies and procedures, through a series of classes involving instruction by police officers.

## **Where did the concept originate?**

The program originated in Orlando, Florida in 1984. Orlando was the first city in the United States to start a Citizen's Police Academy.

## **What was the Austin Police Department's incentive for starting a Citizen's Police Academy?**

We feel the more information the public has about the police department, less fears and misconceptions will exist.

## **When does the class meet?**

There are three Citizen's Police Academy sessions per year. Students meet at Austin Police Department facilities. There will be a total of approximately Fifty Two (52) hours of instruction by police officers. All classes are free.

## **Who attends the Citizen's Police Academy?**

Students range from 18 years of age and above. We have architects, bankers, homemakers, students, retirees, teachers, neighborhood groups and professionals attending the classes.

## **How do you apply?**

**You must be at least 18 years old and live or work in the Austin area.** Complete the Citizen's Police Academy application and mail it to the address below. If you have any questions or need more information, call SPO Dennis Farris, at (512) 974-5941

## **When are classes?**

The Citizens Police Academy is offered two times a year at APD Headquarters. You can choose from the following:

- **Class 76 Spring of 2012;** Tuesday Evening classes March 20 -June 19 with hours; 5:30p – 9:30 p.
- **Class 77 Fall of 2012** Tuesday Evening classes September 11- December 11 with hours; 5:30p- 9:30p.

## **Mailing Address:**

SPO Dennis Farris  
Citizen's Police Academy  
P.O. 689001  
Austin, Texas 78768-9001

# Citizen's Police Academy

## Application for Enrollment

**Circle one:**

- **Class 76 Spring of 2012;** Evening classes March 20 –June 19 with hours; 5:30p – 9:30 p.
- **Class 77 Fall of 2012** Evening classes September 11- December 11 with hours; 5:30p- 9:30p.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Drivers License #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Group Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to attend the Citizen's Police Academy? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Citizen's Police Academy? \_\_\_\_\_

List two references:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*I authorize the Austin Police Department to conduct a background investigation to obtain any information relating to my criminal history record for the purpose of making a determination of eligibility for the Citizen's Police Academy. I also understand I can only take this program one time and if I decide to volunteer, I can be removed from ALL activities if removed from one.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form to:

SPO Dennis Farris  
Citizen's Police Academy  
P.O. Box 689001  
Austin, Texas 78768-9001

**Fax** application to: (512) 974-4785

**Questions?**  
(512)974-5941 or Email; [dennis.farris@austintexas.gov](mailto:dennis.farris@austintexas.gov)