



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA, INC.
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MEMORANDUM

TO: POST COMMANDERS
POST ADJUTANTS
DISTRICT and POST YCLE CHAIRS

FROM: TOMMY POWELL
YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY DIRECTOR

DATE: January 28, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

The American Legion/Virginia State Police Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program has been scheduled for **Sunday, June 20 to Friday, June 25, 2021**, at the Virginia State Police Academy in Richmond. The cost is \$200.00 per cadet. A total of 30 cadets will be accepted to attend this session.

All posts are encouraged to participate in this outstanding program. Posts that would like to know more about the program are urged to contact Erica at Department Headquarters at (804) 353-6606 or Tommy Powell at (703) 356-0154, (703) 400-5610 or at num1flamingeagle@aol.com. **Applications may be downloaded from the Department web site, www.valegion.org, at either Forms or Downloads or on the YCLE page.**

Please note that the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program is limited to only those students who are rising Seniors in high school. Specifically, between their Junior and Senior years. PLEASE MAKE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Please make sure that all applicants are aware that this is a high intensity and sometimes physically demanding week of learning based on the type of training that Virginia State Police trooper candidates receive. Because the fun sometimes includes some activities that are potentially dangerous, like shooting a firearm and driving a police car at high speeds, it is imperative that they are focused at all times. We believe these activities are what make this such a fun and sought after experience.

YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (2021)

The Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program is an American Legion sponsored program designed to present the opportunity for boys and girls to learn about law enforcement responsibilities and training from representatives of various city, county, state and federal agencies. In Virginia, The Virginia State Police Training Academy has been hosting this week. Our annual session will take place Sunday, June 20 to Friday, June 25, 2021.

Students between the 11th and 12th grade from each of the 17 Districts of the American Legion, Department of Virginia will be selected to attend the Virginia Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program at the Virginia State Police Academy in Richmond. The session is scheduled for five days, beginning on Sunday, June 20; the participants will remain in residence until the closing ceremonies on Friday afternoon June 25, 2021. During that period, they will participate in daily classroom and field sessions that touch on all aspects of law enforcement for a Virginia State Trooper. Legionnaires and parents are invited to attend the graduation ceremony at 1pm on Friday, June 25.

SELECTION GUIDELINES:

Participants should be selected by competitive and objective evaluation of interested applicants, based on worthy character, interest, and evidence of self-discipline whose attitude and demeanor would benefit significantly by association and contact with officers of the law. They should also have the ability to share the knowledge gained with others. Applicants do not have to be an "A" student. We are looking for well-rounded, out-going, hard working students with reasonable grades who can communicate and lead their peers. The student should have a valid learner's permit or operator's license, and a copy of it must be attached to the application. As an option, the applicant may attach a copy of his division of motor vehicle transcript. Students must be available to attend the complete Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program.

Completed applications, with Biography and DMV documentation attached, should be submitted to the local Post Commander by April 23, 2021, who shall rank boys and girls according to preference and submit all applications to the Department of VA Headquarters by May 7, 2021. The \$200.00 registration fee for each of the preferred applicants **MUST** be sent with the applications to Department Headquarters. The application will not be considered until it is filled out completely and includes \$200 fee and a copy of the drivers permit/license. **NOTE: Do not send registration fees for alternates.** The sponsoring Post will be notified if an alternate is selected to attend. Department Headquarters will then communicate with the applicants regarding the schedule and details of the program. It is expected that District Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Chairmen, District Commanders, and Post Commanders sponsoring Youth Cadets will maintain contact with the prospective Cadets and arrange transportation to and from Richmond. Participants should be provided with opportunities to make reports of their experiences to the sponsoring Post and/or other interested organizations.

Cost of training, **\$200.00** per student, is provided by the sponsoring Post to cover the cost of food, billeting, T-shirts, linens, pin and administrative expenses. The Virginia State Police training counselors, instructional facilities and equipment are provided as a public service.

YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

RESPONSIBILITY SUMMARY

I. POST COMMANDER

- A. Post Commander or Representative should personally contact local high schools to advise school leaders of the program and request applications be submitted to reach him/her by April 23, 2021. School resource officers are a good source of applicants.
- B. Upon receipt of applications from schools and other agencies, forward the completed application, to include a photo copy of the applicants drivers or learners permit, along with the \$200 fee to **American Legion, Department of Virginia Headquarters (Attn: Youth Cadet)**. **They should reach the Department not later than May 7, 2021.**
- C. Posts should maintain contact with the boys and girls selected for the program.
- D. Arrange transportation to and from the State Police Academy in Richmond for both June 20th and June 25th if parents are not available.

Note: The post's personal contact with school leaders is crucial to the success of the program. Unlike Boys State, where information is sent to the schools, the post representative will be the sole source of knowledge and point of contact for the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program. Remember other community agencies may be used to contact qualified applicants, but you must verify the student's class and scholastic standing with his/her school. An American Legion Post must be the sponsor, regardless of who finds the candidate or who is paying the fee.

II. DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON AND DISTRICT COMMANDERS

- A. District Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Chairperson will work closely with District Commanders to assure that all posts have an equal opportunity to send qualified rising seniors to the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program.
- B. Be sure that Post Commanders submit the application to Department Headquarters by May 7, 2021.
- C. Assure that contact is maintained with boys and girls in the program.
- D. Determine that transportation has been arranged to and from Richmond for each cadet.

III. DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

- A. Department Headquarters will register all of the applications.
- B. Department Headquarters will make the final decision in filling cadet "slots" after consulting with the Post Commander or designated Post representative.
- C. Department Headquarters will notify the Post Commander by June 11, 2021 if his/her alternate may attend.