The Citizens Police Academy provides community members with an inside look at law enforcement. This Academy will acquaint citizens with the Police Department’s role in the criminal justice system and to provide increased understanding of the tasks Police Officers face in their daily work.

The Academy meets once a week for 14 weeks and is designed to give citizens an overview of the police department’s function and operational procedures. The curriculum and teaching methods are similar to the traditional Police Academy; however, the weekly sessions are not designed to train the participant as a police officer.

Officers, supervisors and personnel assigned to a particular division conduct each instructional block giving the participants first-hand information. In addition, this class is a hands-on and interactive program that will include an opportunity for the student to ride along with a Thornton Police Officer during his or her patrol shift.

Upon successful completion of the academy, students will be honored at a graduation ceremony.

About the Citizens Police Academy

Eligibility Requirements

- The Academy is designed for citizens and community leaders who live or work within the City of Thornton.
- Participants must be willing and able to participate in at least 80 percent of the classes.
- Participants must be of high moral character and not have been convicted for any major criminal offense.

Academy Curriculum

- Criminal Investigations
- Patrol Techniques and Strategies
- Crime Scene Evidence and Processing
- Community Policing
- Emergency Vehicle Operation
- Building Searches
- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)
- Crisis Negotiations
- High Risk Vehicle Stops
- Internal Investigations
- Firearms Training
- Crime Prevention
- School Resource Officer
- Senior Citizen Liaison Officer
- Traffic
- K-9 Unit

Eligibility Requirements

- The Academy is designed for citizens and community leaders who live or work within the City of Thornton.
- Participants must be willing and able to participate in at least 80 percent of the classes.
- Participants must be of high moral character and not have been convicted for any major criminal offense.
The Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association is a volunteer organization of motivated Academy graduates who join to promote and improve community relations, receive continuing education, increase community involvement, and assist and support the Thornton Police Department.

The Alumni Association is a dynamic organization involved in a variety of activities, including assisting the department at special events, and promoting on-going group and individual projects that benefit the community.

This growing organization of alumni has ideas and plans for the future. They welcome participation in whatever capacity the member’s time and interest permit.

The Alumni Association is strongly supported by the Thornton Police Department and its members.

For more information about the Citizens Police Academy, please contact:

Commander Dave Zabroski....720-977-5342
Sergeant Dave Lewis ............720-977-5060
Officer Joe Kelley ...............720-977-5501
Officer Matt Barnes.............720-977-5024
Officer Jesus Mendez..........720-977-5517

or fill out the online application at www.cityofthornton.net/pd-ca-app.