



## Junior Law Cadet Program

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The Junior Law Cadet program was introduced during the 1985 National Convention under Resolution 59. Most departments host its program at a law enforcement training center with city, county, state and federal law enforcement officers conducting the physical fitness and classroom education training. Cadets will learn officer survival techniques, defensive tactics, firearms safety, precision driving, law enforcement technology, accident and criminal investigation, and more. This program teaches trust, confidence, strength, and how to work together as a team. Their mantra for the week is Teaching, Learning, Experiencing, Respecting, Empowering, Trusting, and Enjoying.

The program is available to male and female high school students who have completed their junior year of high school and are in good academic standing. They should be of good moral character and possess a desire to learn more about the law enforcement profession.

While this valuable program may very well encourage those who might have a desire to pursue a career in law enforcement, it is not the sole intent for the youth attending this program. The Department of Illinois for instance feels that those youths who do not seem to have vocational or scholastic direction may benefit the most from this program. It is their desire to recruit the average youth representing all communities and cultural backgrounds in the State in an effort to rekindle in their youth the fading respect for persons empowered with the responsibility of enforcing the law at all levels of government. Finally, it is their desire that each youthful participant shall return to their community with a clearer understanding of the police and their problems.

There are currently 17 American Legion Departments that conduct a week-long Junior Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program in partnership with their state police or highway patrol academy. A few of the department's program titles vary in wording, such as "Student Trooper Program," "State Police Youth Week," "Law Enforcement Academy," etc. But they all have the same mission of educating youth about law enforcement, providing a day-in-the-life of a trooper in training, and instilling a newfound respect for law officials,

*source – Legion.org*