

City of Cocoa Beach

2 South Orlando Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
(321) 868-3333



CITY OF COCOA BEACH CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

"It was a learning experience and gave me a new outlook on the community I live in. I hope to be a more productive citizen either by volunteering or other active involvement in the City."

Quote from Participant's Course Evaluation

What is a Citizen's Academy?

The Citizen's Academy is a look into the internal values, philosophy, and operations of the City of Cocoa Beach. Designed for City residents, the academy educates citizens on the "how and why" of City departments.

What is the purpose?

Information! Information! Information! Participants are provided information facilitating informed judgements about City government. The program is designed to cultivate understanding through the educational process, dispelling suspicion and improving community rapport. Additionally, the Academy affords City staff an opportunity to receive community feedback.

What can I expect to learn?

Academy staff will cover a variety of topics and issues pertaining to the City of Cocoa Beach, including information about seldom seen City functions. Participants will gain knowledge and insight through discussions, demonstrations and site visits. Citizens learn how they can play a role in the future of Cocoa Beach.

How much time will I invest?

The Academy runs for twelve (12) weeks. Sessions last three (3) hours, one (1) evening per week, 5:30 - 8:30 P.M. (There will be one (1) *Saturday session, 8 AM - 2 PM*).

How do I apply?

Class 017 begins January 17, 2012. ***Applications must be submitted by January 3, 2012.*** Please return completed application and "Authorization for Release of Information" to:

CITY OF COCOA BEACH
Attention: Sergeant Becky Ireland
P.O. Box 322430
Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-2430

Questions? Call (321) 868-3251 or e-mail rireland@cityofcocoa beach.com

(Over)

➤ Citizen's Academy - Course Content

- Police
 - Use of force and high-risk patrol operations are discussed; includes class participation in mock traffic stops; felony stop procedures demonstrated
 - DUI countermeasures are discussed and field sobriety tests demonstrated; includes "drinking exercise" involving an intoxicated subject with intoxilyzer demonstration
 - Criminal investigative techniques are discussed and demonstrated; hands-on use of latent fingerprinting equipment
 - The role of law enforcement officers in the schools is discussed; includes Dare Officer, School Resource Officer and school representatives
- Fire
 - Discussion of fire safety & prevention, rescue equipment, fire apparatus (trucks); includes high angle rescue demonstration involving rescuing a trapped person in mid-air
 - Fire suppression demonstration involving extinguishing controlled pit fires with extinguishers
 - Demonstration of motor vehicle extrication involving "jaws of life" and hand tools
 - Discussion of medical emergencies; includes a simulated "code" (heart attack) utilizing heart defibrillator and drugs
- City Clerk
 - Discussion of records management, elections, customer service and administrative support to Mayor/Commission; includes overview of volunteer program and volunteer testimonials
- Public Works
 - Discussion of road & sidewalk projects; includes facilities field trip with a luncheon hosted by staff
- Water Reclamation
 - Discussion of effluent reuse, sludge disposal, future projects, and storm-water management; includes facilities field trip
- Leisure Services
 - Discussion of recreation programs; includes field trip to golf course, pool/tennis/pavilion facilities
- Finance
 - Discussion of budget process; includes "budget scavenger hunt"
- Development Services
 - Discussion of civil citation program, code enforcement, and building codes
- City Boards
 - City board members host discussion of City Boards roles & responsibilities

Participant Feedback

"Most of the classes were so interesting that it was hard to get all of our questions answered before it was time to go."

"Feel closer To City Departments and would not hesitate to call them..."

"Getting to know these people are accessible to the public."

"Familiarity creates respect."

"There was a lot to learn about Cocoa Beach and I'm sure if I took the class again I would learn something I missed during this class."

"Learning the ways I could help promote the goals of our City by explaining to others the reasons behind some of the controversial issues and ways we can help."

Promotes Community Involvement

Graduates participate in City Government:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ➤ Board of Adjustment | ➤ Fire Department Pension Board |
| ➤ Charter Review Committee | ➤ General Employee Pension |
| ➤ Citizen's Academy | ➤ Planning Board |
| ➤ City Clerk | ➤ Police Pension Board |
| ➤ City Commission | ➤ Police Volunteers |
| ➤ Code Enforcement Board | ➤ Redevelopment Committee |

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Standards for Admission

Class size will be limited to 25 participants. Considerations for admission will be made on a first come first serve basis.

APPLICANTS THAT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION ARE:

- Persons with arrest histories - some of the information shared during the Citizen's Academy is sensitive in nature. It is the position of the Citizen's Academy not to share such information with persons who have shown a propensity for criminal activity. The Citizen's Academy reserves the right to exclude persons for past criminal acts.
- Persons having an application on file with a law enforcement agency or a fire department.
- Persons who cannot attend at least 75% of the classes.
- Persons under the age of 18.

Local records and criminal histories will be checked. Outstanding warrants will be checked. Persons with a history of criminal activity, including but not limited to theft, intoxication, arson, resisting arrest or repeated offenses will not be considered.

The Academy staff will select applicants. City of Cocoa Beach residents and volunteers will be given priority over non-residents. If necessary, a waiting list will be created from the accepted applications. If an opening should occur prior to the beginning of the class, the next person on the waiting list will be contacted.

Resident of Cocoa Beach for _____ yrs. Originally a native of _____

Moved to Cocoa Beach from _____

Please list your community organizations and activities:

Briefly explain why you wish to be enrolled in the City of Cocoa Beach Citizen's Academy: _____

PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW, BEFORE SIGNING THIS APPLICATION.

I hereby certify that there are no willful falsifications, omissions, or misrepresentations in the foregoing statements and answers to questions. I understand that any omission or false statement on this application shall be sufficient cause for rejection for enrollment or dismissal from the cocoa beach citizen's academy.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return completed Application and "Authorization for Release of Information" to:

**CITY OF COCOA BEACH
Attention: Sergeant Rebecca Ireland
P.O. Box 322430
Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-2430**

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City of Cocoa Beach Citizen's Academy

Authorization for Release of Information

I, _____ do hereby authorize a review of and full disclosure of all records concerning myself to any authorized agent of the City of Cocoa Beach, whether the said records are of public, private, or confidential nature.

The intent of this authorization is to give my consent for full and complete disclosure of any and all records concerning any criminal activity. This may include, but is not limited to: criminal histories, driving records, arrest reports, offense reports, or any official document.

I understand that any information obtained by a background investigation which is developed directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, upon this release authorization will be considered in determining my suitability for attendance to the Citizen's Academy. I also certify that any person(s) who may furnish such information concerning me shall not be held accountable for giving this information; and I hereby release said person(s) from any liability which may be incurred as a result of furnishing such information.

I also authorize the release of my name and full disclosure of all records concerning myself to verify past and future applications with other law enforcement agencies.

A photocopy of this release form will be valid as an original thereof, even though said photocopy does not contain an original writing of my signature.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF BREVARD

This affidavit was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public: _____

Driver's License: _____ Date of Birth: _____