

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 PM. (There will be one (1) *Saturday session, 8 AM - 2 PM*).

How do I apply?

Class 013 begins January 15, 2008. *Applications must be submitted by January 8, 2008.* Please return completed application and "Authorization for Release of Information" to:

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

Questions? Call (321) 868-3251 or e-mail jharmon@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
- Charter Review Committee
- Citizen's Academy
- City Clerk
- City Commission
- Code Enforcement Board
- Fire Department Pension Board
- General Employee Pension
- Planning Board
- Police Pension Board
- Police Volunteers
- Redevelopment Committee