

Alaska Department of Public Safety

Alaska State Troopers



Session #3
January 14, 2014
through April 15, 2014



Citizens Academy

Matanuska-Susitna Valley

The Alaska State Troopers are hosting their third Citizen Academy. The program is designed to promote and enhance citizen understanding and awareness of the role of the Alaska State Troopers within your community.

The objective of the course is not to prepare graduates to become troopers or police officers, but instead, to instill in citizens a greater knowledge and understanding of the many functions and services provided by your Alaska State Troopers.

Advance registration is required for the Academy, and it is open to any citizen who meets the following established criteria for DPS employment: a) Participants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, b) must pass a background investigation including a criminal history check, and c) reside within the State of Alaska. **Application deadline is December 31, 2013.**

Participation requires a commitment of one evening a week and four Saturday afternoons for a fourteen (14) week period. Participants will meet for classes on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 9:15 PM January 14, 2014 thru April 15, 2014, and a few Saturdays for field trips. Graduation will be held on the evening of April 19, 2014. In addition to the above commitments, ride-along assignments with a trooper may be scheduled and are highly recommended. Schedules are subject to change.

Classes will be held at Department of Corrections Training Academy at **515 E Dahlia Avenue, Palmer AK**, unless otherwise instructed.

What is the Alaska State Trooper Citizen Academy?

The role of troopers has always been of interest to the average citizen. The television media has capitalized upon this curiosity with shows such as “Cops”, “America’s Most Wanted”, “Stories of the Highway Patrol”, “CSI” and specifically the more recent documentary/reality television episodes about our Alaska State Troopers. Each week, real police action is broadcast into the living rooms of millions of Americans. The media has placed their own “spin” on the reality of policing in America, creating unrealistic Hollywood ideals and providing misinformation to citizens across the country.

Our AST program is based on Citizen Police Academy (CPA) programs being formed by police agencies all over America. CPA’s are intended to open the lines of communication between the community and their local police and help expand a police agency’s community based efforts. To our citizens, it may frequently appear that troopers are not doing their job or are exceeding their authority. AST’s Citizen Academy can alleviate some misunderstanding by providing citizens a firsthand look at the statutes, regulations and policies which guide troopers in their daily duties.

The concept of the CPA actually started in the United Kingdom in 1977. It began in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, in City of Exeter, England. A police night school was implemented to allow citizens to learn about police functions, police operations and the organization of the police system in England.

The founders received an immediate response from the public. They were soon overwhelmed with applicants wanting to know about “their” police force. The project was so successful that it was permanently adopted as part of an ongoing public relations program.

In 1985, the Orlando, Florida Police Department adopted the concept of the Police Night School for their agency and created the first CPA in the United States. The ultimate goal of the Orlando CPA was to reduce crime through a stronger citizen commitment to the police department and the community. Success was instantaneous and a new law enforcement tool was found. Word of the success spread and in that same year Missouri City, Texas adopted the same concept. Today you will find CPA programs throughout the United States in communities large and small.

The objective of the Alaska State Trooper Citizen Academy is not to train an individual to be a “Reserve Officer” or “Trooper” but to **produce informed citizens**. Citizens and troopers will meet each other face to face in a neutral setting. Citizens’ participation in the program will provide a personal understanding and relationship with the men and women who are **your** Alaska State Troopers.