



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Youth Services Unit celebrates 16 years of youth police academy

MT. PLEASANT, Mich. July 11, 2016 – The Youth Services Unit will host its 16th annual summer youth police academy July 11-28 with 21 new students from Isabella County participating in the three-week program.

To become eligible for the academy, students must be entering the sixth through eighth grades this fall, complete an application and write an essay on why they would like to attend the academy.

“This is a free program designed to provide youths in our communities insight into the everyday functions and training of the variety of law enforcement agencies and emergency services in our government,” said Jeff Browne, Mt. Pleasant Police Public Information Officer. “The youth academy is not a boot camp for troubled youth. It is a program offered to students who have an interest in law enforcement.”

The officers run the academy similarly to a real police academy, with values such as teamwork, integrity and discipline being stressed. Cadets are required to participate in physical training every day, and even complete the same agility testing given to officers during a standard police academy. The daily curriculum includes physical training, hands-on learning and demonstrations from specialized units, such as the SWAT Team, K-9 and DNR.

Classroom topics will include crime scene investigations, traffic stops, marine patrol activities, firearms safety and much more. “This program is a proactive way to build a bond between the youth of Isabella County and local role models who can positively influence their lives,” Browne added.

Many opportunities are available for the media to cover the academy, including seeing the cadets during their **Defensive Tactics** training on July 18 at 1 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, 1802 E. High Street; and **Fire Service Day** at 10 a.m. July 26 at Department of Public Safety, 804 E. High St., Mt. Pleasant.

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