



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
October 2023 Report
The Volunteer Services Unit Edition



Volunteer Services

Spokane Police Department's Volunteer Services Unit serves the department *and* the community

26,330 Volunteer Hours in 2022	74 Volunteers	3 SPD Employees
\$777,524 Value	Unpaid Volunteer Reserve Officers, Citizen Volunteers, Explorers, and Cadets	32 Community Events

There are four programs: Reserve Officers, Citizen Volunteers, Explorers, and Cadets. The Volunteer Services Unit contains a sergeant, clerk, and recruiter/background investigator.

SPD Volunteers help at Community Events that make Spokane great!

<p>Martin Luther King Jr. March Walk for Life St. Patrick's Day Parade Famous Footwear Shop with a Cop – Embrace WA Eastern Washington University Capstone Bloomsday Junior Lilac Parade Lilac Parade Pride Parade Hoopfest Hillyard Parade Eucharistic Exposition Dick's Sporting Goods Shop with a Cop Special Olympics Car Show Special Olympics Cop on Top National Drug Take Back Day</p>	<p>Salvation Army Shop with a Cop Police Activities League Tacos Y Tequila SpoKenya 7K Run Special Olympics Sport Exhibitions Cops, Cars, and Cruisers Unity in the Community Spokane County Fair Boulevard Run K9 Community Day Special Olympics Pacers team events National Night Out Against Crime Veteran's Arena event security for concerts Spokane Marathon Trunk or Treat events Holiday Parade</p>
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The Volunteer Response Team helps free up officers by providing aid in critical situations. The team has helped find a missing child, locate a gun from a crime scene, and provided scene security at a critical incident. The team also recently helped with Spokane County wildfire response.



Volunteers add value by augmenting current staff and by providing a pipeline of trained, qualified applicants for full-time employment.

70 of the current SPD Officers started out with the SPD Volunteer Services program

SPD Volunteers receive valuable training in police procedures, physical fitness, defensive tactics, legal issues, technology, firearms, crowd management, and communication. Hands-on experience combined with classroom training provides volunteers opportunities to try various roles in policing.



SkillBridge Program – a New Volunteer Services Program

SPD is participating in the Department of Defense’s SkillBridge program. SkillBridge provides SPD with direct access to a highly skilled applicant pool – volunteer/intern applicants who are transitioning from military service to civilian life. These applicants are paid full-time with entitlements from their military branch, while they are given an opportunity to train/job shadow, apply, and process with SPD for up to six months. SkillBridge provides volunteers who are potential applicants for commissioned and non-commissioned positions. SPD began work on SkillBridge at the beginning of 2023. SPD already has one SkillBridge individual in the current Academy.

<https://skillbridge.osd.mil/>

To learn more: <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/>



Reserve Officers

The Reserve program is comprised of men and women who either aspire to be police officers or want to serve on the front line. Reserves are comprised of community members who volunteer their time to fulfill many of the roles handled by full-time, sworn police officers. A Reserve Officer is fully commissioned while on duty.

Requirements



Reserve Officer candidates are required to complete a five-month 370-hour Reserve Academy. These hardworking individuals attend the Academy on evenings and weekends. The program culminates with a certification examination administered by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission prior to graduation.

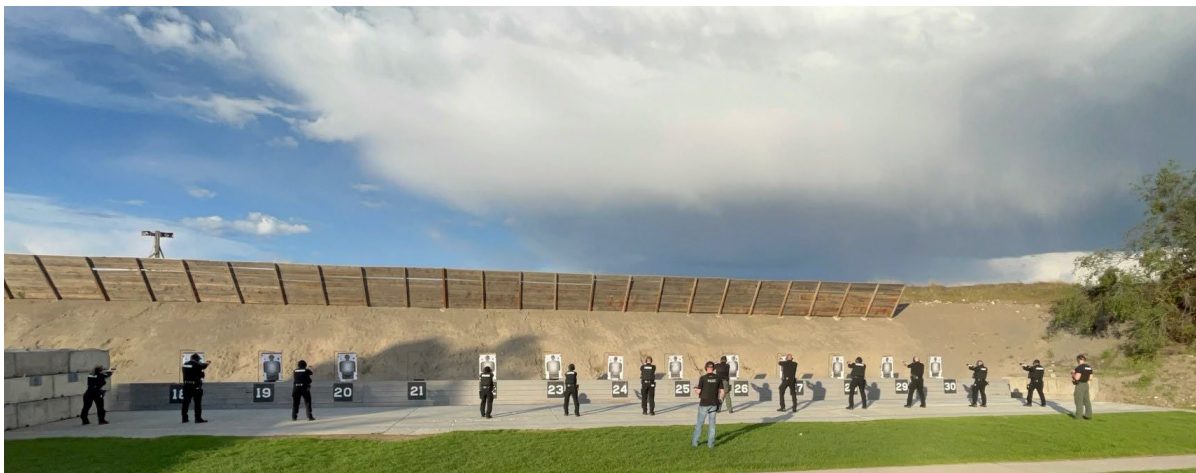
After graduation from the Reserve Officer Academy, Reserve Officers continue monthly training and volunteering to maintain their status.

Reserve Officers can continue their training with a mentoring program allowing them to progress to a Level II Reserve Officer, able to respond to calls as a solo officer.

Prior to attending the Reserve Academy, applicants must pass a background check, physical ability test, a polygraph, oral board, psychological testing, medical screening, and a review by the Chief of Police.

Incredible Training Opportunities

Defensive tactics, firearms, de-escalation, and Crisis Intervention are just a few of the regular training topics for Reserve Officers.





What do Reserve Officers do?

- Assist with Patrol calls for service
- Help with community events
- Represent SPD in community outreach programs

Below, Reserve Officers at the Special Olympics Car Show, Shop with a Cop, Community Safety Presentation, and Spokane County Fair, and Bloomsday



For more information, <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/reserve-officers/>



Citizen Volunteers – Age 18+



Citizen Volunteers assist the commissioned and non-commissioned members of the SPD in the performance of their duties. This program includes anyone from age 18 years to Senior Citizens.

Requirements

People who enjoy working with the public, have people skills, are problem-solvers, and have basic clerical skills or computer knowledge can volunteer in Police Administration, the Police Academy, Records Division, or the Investigative Unit.

What do Citizen Volunteers do?

There are various opportunities, depending on interest and experience, including:

- Serving the public at information booths at the Public Safety Building and Courthouse Annex
- Working with officers at the front desk at the Public Safety Building and Investigations building
- Assisting patrol at the precinct buildings
- Vacation home checks
- Following up with Investigations
- Delivering and picking up mail between City sites
- Collecting found property (bikes, cameras, etc.)
- Assisting with reality-based training scenarios at the SPD Academy



Citizen Volunteers assist in community events such as Bloomsday, Hoopfest, and the Lilac Parade. They are involved in many community outreach programs like the Police Activities League (PAL).

Keith Campbell has volunteered as a coach with the Police Activities League for the last nine years.



<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/citizen/>

Explorers – Youth Volunteers

Requirements

High school youth aged 14-18 years old are eligible to become an Explorer. Explorers commit to volunteering 20 hours per month. There are two Explorer Academies per year; it is mandatory to attend one Academy. Explorers must maintain a 2.5 GPA while serving.



What do Explorers do?

- Explorers help at community events such as Hoopfest, Bloomsday, and Lilac Parade. They attend the Spokane County Fair with officers.
- Community Outreach programs. In 2023, nine Explorers helped with the Police Activities League (PAL), SPD's flagship youth outreach program.
- Explorers routinely help with Shop with a Cop and back-to-school events.
- When Explorers reach a certain level of proficiency, they are allowed to ride with an officer on patrol.
- Explorers can assist the department with training, such as reality-based training scenarios.



Training Opportunities

At the Explorer Academies, youth receive training and are tested on Academics, Physical Agility, and Firearms.

At the Summer 2023 Explorer Academy, several SPD volunteers were recognized. Derek Schweigert was in the Intermediate level, participating in his 2nd Explorer Academy. He earned the following awards: 1st Place Male Physical Agility, 3rd Place Academics, 1st Place Overall.

Emma LaRue was an Academy Assistant, participating in her 4th Explorer Academy. She earned the award for: Best Academy Assistant.





<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/explorers-cadets/>

Cadets

Requirements

Cadets are high school/equivalency graduates ages 18-24. Cadets must maintain a 2.5 GPA while enrolled in school and commit to volunteering 20 hours per month. They also attend the Explorer Academy.



What do Cadets do?

- Cadets are allowed to ride with an officer on patrol, once they reach a certain level of proficiency.
- Cadets can advance to a Level 2 Cadet which allows them to assist patrol officers with cold report calls (Burglaries, Hit and Run Collisions, Pick Up Found Property etc.).
- Level 2 Cadets receive advanced training on non-emergency vehicle operation and are qualified to take a vehicle out on patrol to respond to non-emergency calls.
- Cadets also participate in internships and supplemental roles in patrol, records, etc.
- Cadets help at community events such as Hoopfest, Bloomsday, Lilac Parade, and Spokane County Fair.
- Assist with safety presentations for various populations (e.g., youth centers).



SPD Volunteers give back to the community while acquiring valuable training, mentoring, and experience.

Training Opportunities

The Cadet program offers training about police procedures. Cadets learn about all the specialty units in the department, such as K9, Hostage Negotiation Team, and Drone Unit. They train to improve their communication skills.

Cadets also attend the Explorer Academy. At the Summer 2023 Explorer Academy, Cadet Koleton Vaughn was in the Advanced level, participating in his 3rd Explorer Academy. He earned the following awards: 1st Place Male Physical Agility, 3rd Place Firearms, 2nd Place Overall.

At right, a cadet practices reality-based training scenarios with Reserve Officers.



To learn more: <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/>