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Are you cut out to be a police officer? Find out what it takes by signing up for the Burleson Police Department's free 8-week Citizens Police Academy. The classes are on Thursdays, June 9 - July 28, with graduation on August 4. The three-hour classes start at 6:30 p.m.

You'll learn about the department's organization, recruiting process, the Texas Penal Code, criminal investigations, search and seizure, building searches, traffic law enforcement, narcotics investigation, SWAT, patrol procedures, and more. The classes are as "hands on" as possible. Instructors demonstrate techniques used to search a building for an intruder, and then participants practice what they've learned. Students ride along with an officer or monitor the communications office.

The Citizens Police Academy is open to men and women, 18 or older. Citizens must submit an application packet which consists of the application, a waiver form, and consent for criminal history check. The class is limited to 30 students. Applications are available online at www.burlesontx.com/citizenspoliceacademy and at the Burleson Police Department, 1161 S.W. Wilshire Blvd. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on June 3.

Citizens Police Academy provides a bridge between the officer in the car and the citizens in the field. Citizens who complete the program understand what the police department does as opposed to what is seen on TV. Citizens Police Department graduates then become the police department's "goodwill ambassadors" in the community.

Sgt. Brian O'Heren serves as coordinator for the academy but speakers from throughout the department share their expertise. Occasionally instructors are brought in from outside the department as well.

For more information, call 817-426-9881 or email Sgt. O'Heren at boheren@burlesontx.com. To see pictures from the 2015 Citizens Police Academy, go to <http://bit.ly/CPAttrafficstops2015>, <http://bit.ly/CPAbldgsearch>, and <http://bit.ly/CPAmockmurder2015>.