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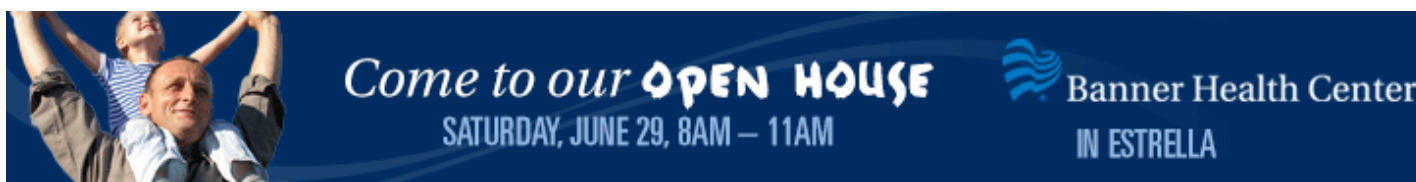


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Goodyear academy gives youths taste of policing

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By Eddi Trevizo

The Republic | azcentral.com

Fri Jun 7, 2013 9:20 AM

Teens with an eye on law-enforcement careers can process mock crime scenes, learn about firearms, visit with forensic experts and check out armored cars this summer in the Goodyear Police Officer Teen Academy.

It's the sixth year the Police Department has given summer groups of about 25 to 30 students a glimpse of life as officers. The program is for students ages 14 through 18 who are enrolled in high school or recently graduated, said Officer Kyle Rogers, who has led the program for about six years.

"(We're) also looking for kids in Goodyear or living in the West Valley," Rogers said.

The one-week program offers students a chance to learn about drug

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awareness, firearms training and safety, processing crime scenes, SWAT teams and K-9 units.

The first academy session is July 8-12, and the second runs July 15-19. The sessions are mostly held at Estrella Mountain Community College and occasionally off site, either at shooting ranges or on tours offered by the program.

Students interested in the academy must pay a \$50 fee that covers T-shirts that are worn throughout the session, a graduation ceremony, some lunches and a fun activity day. The program is capped at about 30 students on a first-come, first-served basis.

The academy is also the Goodyear department's recruiting ground for the Goodyear Police Explorers program. Explorers are 14- to 20-year-old volunteers who work with the Police Department year-round. Like the summer academy, Explorers are youths interested in law enforcement.

Rogers said eight to 10 teens have moved from the summer academy to the Explorers program. Five Goodyear officers landed jobs in the department either through Explorers in Goodyear or at other police departments.

"We've had a lot of (students) apply, but we don't accept everyone that applies," Rogers said of the Explorers program.

To download the summer application, visit goodyearaz.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/13979. The application must be returned to the Police Department, 175 N. 145th Ave., Suite E, Goodyear, AZ, 85338, and addressed to Officer Regan McCarthy. For more information, e-mail McCarthy at remccarthy@goodyearaz.gov.

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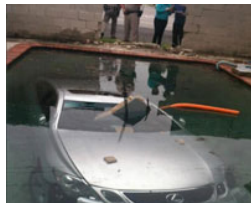
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