

## **OPD planning Citizens Academy to promote relationships, understanding**

Orofino Police Chief Jeff Wilson and his staff are in process of establishing a Citizens' Academy to help the public become more familiar with law enforcement and how and why they do things.

The first 10-week academy will begin Sept. 8 and be held each Wednesday evening from 6-9 until Nov. 10 at City Council Chambers.

The classes will have 20-25 participants each. Registration materials are available at the OPD office above city hall or can be downloaded from [www.orofinopd.com](http://www.orofinopd.com). Applications will be accepted until August 27, 2010. The names of those who sign-up after the maximum class size is reached will be kept on file and be first for consideration in upcoming academies. There is no cost to participants. Security checks will be done on participants just to make sure there are no issues, Wilson said.

Sometimes people see law enforcement officers do things that look odd or even wrong to them. Wilson gave the example of seeing an officer going at accelerated speeds with lights flashing down the highway and then they are seen stopped seemingly without an emergency. That can happen when they are called to an incident as backup and then it is resolved and they are told to "stand down", he said.

Part of the purpose of the academy is to allow citizens to become more familiar with how OPD is operated and why and how they do things such as traffic stops, search and seizure, citizen contacts and etc. Participants will also be able to check out some of the technology that the department uses in their work such as night vision, thermal imaging and the new computer systems in patrol vehicles.

Each participant will be encouraged to spend at least five hours riding along with officers, in addition to the classes.

Wilson is working on a well-rounded program that will bring in speakers from other parts of the justice system such as judges, prosecutors and possibly Clearwater County Sheriff's Department. At some point, all the OPD officers will have a part in academy.

Examples of topics for the academy are:

- Use of force
- Driving in pursuit or emergency response
- Search and seizure
- Field training
- Arrest laws
- Police reserves
- K-9 programs
- Drug investigations
- Death investigations
- Traffic stops
- Citizen contacts
- DUI investigations and field sobriety tests

Wilson wants the academy to be interactive and have students participate, not just have lectures. While participants need to be at least 18, he would like to see a cross section of adult ages, professions and etc.

Wilson said he plans to host the academy on a yearly basis and maybe more if there is enough interest. He will be taking comments from participants after the academy so adjustments can be made to improve the program.

OPD may in the future have a shorter version of the academy for youths. A spin off of that academy might be recruitment for local law enforcement. It will also help with relationships between law enforcement and the participants.

The chief said he can see huge benefits for the department from the academy through building relationships and promoting understanding of what law enforcement is doing.

Those who have questions about the academy may contact Wilson at 476-5551.

Article written by: Window on the Clearwater

**Orofino Police Department  
1st Annual Citizens Police Academy  
Application**

**Dept. Use Only**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about the Citizens Police Academy?

- Friend     Online News Source     Newspaper     Radio     Other

If other, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain why you are interested in attending the Citizens Police Academy: \_\_\_\_\_

The Orofino Citizens Police Academy will meet each Wednesday night from 6:00PM to 9:00PM at the Orofino City Hall Council Chambers located at 217 First Street in Orofino. Classes will begin Sept.8, 2010 and will conclude Nov.10, 2010. Due to the sensitive nature of the material that will be discussed and the ride-along, a safety check will be completed prior to acceptance into the class. If selected for the Academy it is imperative that you are committed to attending for the full 10 weeks.

Return your application to Chief Jeff Wilson by mailing to P.O. Box 2603, Orofino, Idaho 83544 or email to [jwilson@orofinopd.com](mailto:jwilson@orofinopd.com) or hand deliver to Police Department no later than August 27, 2010.

**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

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Initials/Date

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_