

Not Your Usual Summer Camp

Monmouth County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff YOUTH WEEK



Sheriff
MAGAZINE

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*By Sheriff Joseph W. Oxley (Ret.) and
UnderSheriff Ted Freeman, Monmouth County
Sheriff's Office, Freehold, New Jersey*

At 7:45 AM on July 16th, the serenity of the Monmouth County Police Academy was ended. The booming voices of the certified drill instructors from the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office permeating the air as they began the process of "character formation" which would continue throughout the entire week. For the 13th consecutive year, high school students interested in law enforcement began a week at the Monmouth County Police Academy, participating in Sheriff Youth Week.

Sheriff Youth Week is an annual program conducted by Monmouth County Sheriff Joseph W. Oxley, his staff, the Monmouth County Police Academy and guest speakers from municipal, county, state and federal public safety agencies. The program began in 1994 with eighteen participants. The 2007 class had 73 participants registered with 65 reporting on the first day and 62 graduating on July 20th. Not everyone makes it through the week of intensive training at Sheriff Youth Week.

"Sheriff Youth Week is an opportunity for high school students to experience what a law enforcement and public safety career is all about, and the type of training that is necessary for that career," said Sheriff Joseph W. Oxley. "I am pleased that many of our Sheriff Youth Week attendees go on to careers in public safety."

The 2007 Session of Sheriff Youth Week began on July 16th and concluded with a formal graduation on July 20th. Classes began each day at 7:45 AM with an hour of drill. Interactive classes followed during the day, and concluded with physical training from 2:45 PM until 4:00 PM conducted by certified physical training instructors: Sheriff's Officers Denise Guerra, Belinda Lucatorto, James Fay and Sergeant Maggie Freeman, Manalapan Township Police Department.

Monday started with presentations on Narcotics by Detective Sergeant Gary Friedhoff and Forensics by Detective Sergeant David Gamble of the Monmouth

County Prosecutor's Office. The afternoon training began with an interactive CERT Team (Corrections Emergency Response Team) demonstration and a firearms overview and safety class, followed by physical training.

Tuesday's highlights were an interactive demonstration of the Sheriff's Office Explosive Detection Dogs by Sheriff's Officer James

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Fay and his partner, "Falco." Other classes that day featured the Department of Defense Police, U.S. Air Marshals, U.S. Secret Service and the Sheriff's Office Communications Division. A special presentation on Women in Law Enforcement was presented, featuring Sheriff's Officer Belinda Lucatorto, Sheriff's Public Safety Telecommunicator Kristin Aras and Manalapan Township Police Sergeant Maggie Freeman. Each shared their experiences as a female in law enforcement.

Wednesday began with an overview of the "Reach For Your Dreams Program," a program created in Warren County, Kentucky by Sheriff Jerry "Peanuts" Gaines and Captain Joe Jakub, and successfully replicated by Sheriff Oxley and County Superintendent of Schools Eugenia E. Lawson in Monmouth County schools.

For the first time in the 13-year history of Sheriff Youth Week, firearms training was included in the training schedule. This was made possible by loan of Beamhit laser firearms training equipment and support staff from MPRI, Inc. /L-3Com, a Maryland based company. MPRI supplied multiple electronic targets with laser-modified weapons for the firearms training. They also supplied three technicians, led by retired FBI Special Agent R. Patrick Welch, to operate the equipment. The students were divided into seven teams for practice sessions, followed by a marksmanship tournament between the teams. The two top-scoring teams competed on Beamhit's electronic knock-down targets for the Best Team Award. Vice president Daniel Doherty, MPRI – Alexandria Group, and Vice-president Bob Garner, MPRI Training and Technology Group, presented Best Team Trophies to the winning team and Sharpshooter Trophies to the other participants. During the afternoon, a presentation on Gangs was made by the Sheriff's Office Jail Investigation Unit, followed by drill and exercise.

Thursday was another day of "firsts" for Sheriff Youth Week. The "recruits" were bused to the new Monmouth County Police Firing Range for a demonstration of the state-of-the-art range including the "running man" feature (a silhouette target that moves across the range at variable speeds controlled by the rangemaster.) County rangemaster, Lieutenant Joseph Aflitto, conducted the demonstration.

The students were then taken to the Monmouth County Fire Academy for another first, interactive fire service training, where students learned about entering a burning building at the smokehouse, climbed and learned about rappelling from a four-story tower, learned and practiced how to do emergency carries to move people safely and how to safely handle a charged fire hose. Training Officer Bill Itinger and his staff at the Fire Academy did an outstanding job showing the close relationship between law enforcement and the fire service.

A tour of the Sheriff's Office 1,328 bed direct-supervision Monmouth County Correctional Institution followed the Fire Academy training and the day ended, as each day did, with drill and exercise.

On Friday morning, United States Marshal James T. Plousis (retired Sheriff of Cape May County, NJ) gave the class a presentation about the U.S. Marshals Service.

Immediately following Marshal Plousis' class, the sixty-two Sheriff Youth Week "recruits" were placed in formation and marched in cadence into the Police Academy auditorium where parents, family and friends awaited the formal graduation ceremonies. Guest speakers included U.S. Marshal James T. Plousis and Honorary Deputy Sheriff William W. Wingard, who, with his wife, Marie and his company, New Jersey Gravel and Sand, Inc., have been the long time sponsors of Sheriff Youth Week. A reception followed the graduation.

Jeremy Hoffman, Freehold First Aid Cadet and high school junior, said of the program, "I'm considering this



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type of work someday – this is my second year attending and I'm really interested in this." Andrew Anzivino, high school senior, said, "By attending Sheriff Youth Week, I got a glimpse of what it would be like to go into law enforcement and the many ways to do it. It offered excellent leadership training and teamwork," and freshman Jillian Olsen commented, "I learned what police work involves, and that women can do the job just as well as men."

The Sheriff Youth Week staff included:

- UnderSheriff Ted Freeman – SYW Coordinator
- UnderSheriff Cynthia Scott – Public Information Coordinator
- Sergeant Wayne Olsen – SYW Class Coordinator
- Sergeant Kevin LaGravenis – SYW Logistics Coordinator
- Sheriff's Officers Denise Guerra, Belinda Lucatorto, Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator John Cuccia, Assistant Coordinators
- Sheriff's Officers Denise Guerra, James Fay, Belinda Lucatorto and Sergeant Maggie Freeman, Manalapan Township Police Department - Physical Training Coordinators
- Sergeant Wayne Olsen, Officer Brian Johnson– Drill Instructors

"Sheriff Youth Week provides participants an opportunity to experience the training and professionalism required to become a law enforcement and public safety professional," said Sheriff Oxley. "I am grateful to our sponsors, Marie and Bill Wingard, the presenters from the various public safety agencies, the staff of the Monmouth County Police Academy and Monmouth County Fire Academy, and vice presidents Daniel Doherty and Bob Garner of MPRI for the loan of the Beamhit firearms systems. Partnerships between the Sheriff's Office, other public safety agencies and the corporate sector helped make this Sheriff Youth Week the best attended and most innovative to date." ☼

For additional information, contact UnderSheriff Ted Freeman at tfreeman@co.monmouth.nj.us or visit www.SheriffOxley.com.

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