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NEWS RELEASE

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MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECRUITS FROM THE 24th ANNUAL SHERIFF YOUTH WEEK GRADUATE

Neptune: Sheriff Shaun Golden proudly handed certificates to the 107 recruits who graduated from the 24th annual Sheriff Youth Week. The program, which is no ordinary week of summer camp, began on July 11 and ended July 15, with a formal graduation held at the Neptune High School Performing Arts Center. Sheriff Youth Week, based out of the Monmouth County Police Academy, provides high school aged students a unique opportunity to explore interests in law enforcement through police academy style training, exercise programs and instructional sessions.

"I'm proud of the entire Sheriff Youth Week class for staying the course and commend them for completing this intensive week of law enforcement training," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "The program provides the graduates with an opportunity to explore the realm of possibilities of a career in law enforcement."

Each day began with drill and ended with exercise. During the week, the class learned about various law enforcement topics and agencies. An overview of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Division, the 9-1-1 Communications Division and the Monmouth County Correctional Division was provided.

Presentations and interactive demonstrations included firearms safety and awareness, Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Monmouth/Ocean Certified Emergency Response Team (MOCERT) mock drills, a bicycle safety obstacle, K-9 demonstrations from the

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Monmouth County Sheriff's Office tracking, narcotics and explosive teams, and a display of the sheriff's special operations vehicles. Overviews of the FBI, gang awareness and health and fitness in law enforcement were also presented.

"This has been a great experience. The physical training, presentations and demonstrations provided me with an understanding of what it's like to work in law enforcement," said McKenzie DiStefano, Sea Girt.

"This program was challenging but I became disciplined and learned about all the aspects of law enforcement and what it takes to be a leader," said Arturo Cortez, Wall.

"I'm back for my third year as a Sheriff Youth Week recruit. It continues to interest and challenge me and was a great opportunity for all of us," said Gabrielle Freeman, Spring Lake.

There were also major focal points of the week. The recruits spent two days at Neptune High School. They learned about water safety and rescue at the Neptune Aquatic Center and participated in rock climbing and weights. At Neptune High School's SIM Lab they viewed a patient simulation with mannequins that simulate respiratory distress, coughing and other obvious signs and symptoms. In addition, the recruits were able to see through the eyes of a firefighter, what it's like first hand, to battle a blaze at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. They observed a live fire demonstration on the grounds, operated fire hoses and portable ladders and took part in firefighter drag and carry exercises.

"It is our pleasure to host these two days and provide the participants with a great opportunity," said Richard Allen, Principal of Poseidon High School. "I commend the class for their hard work and perseverance and look forward in continuing this great partnership with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office."

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“This valuable program provides insight into what it takes to become a public safety professional and leader. As a result, many of the graduates will be the future of law enforcement,” said Freeholder Lillian Burry, liaison to the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office.

The guest speaker at the graduation was Alexandria, Virginia Police Officer Constance Kniesler, a 2011 graduate of Sheriff Youth Week and volunteer intern in 2012.

Mr. and the late Mrs. William W. Wingard, of New Jersey Gravel & Sand in Wall Township have been the sponsors of Sheriff Youth Week since 1992 and were acknowledged at the graduation ceremony for their dedication and commitment throughout the years. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Principal Allen for his unwavering dedication and support of Sheriff Youth Week, and his role in creating partnerships with the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office including the establishment of Explorer Post #1 and the Law Enforcement Mini Academy.

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