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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES TEEN CERT PROGRAM DURING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

**Freehold:** Sheriff Shaun Golden is pleased to announce that the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office will be holding a second TEEN Community Emergency Response Team, (CERT), Explorer Post Program. The program is a National Homeland Security initiative aimed at making our communities safer by training TEENS to assist in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies or disasters.

“With September being National Preparedness Month and the recent weather events that unfolded in Texas and Florida, there is no better time to announce this program since it's an opportunity for teens to become involved in the community, learn about disaster preparedness and provide them with valuable life experiences,” said Sheriff Shaun Golden, who agency oversees the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management, (OEM). “Under the direction of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, (OEM), the TEEN CERT program provides critical support to our overall public safety mission.”

On February 7, 2017 Sheriff Golden filed a charter application with the Monmouth Council Boy Scouts of America to form the TEEN CERT Explorer Post #2. TEEN CERT is managed by OEM. The program, which is the first in the state, was unveiled last spring and 40 participants graduated. TEEN CERT is open to Monmouth County residents between the ages of 14 and 20 and adults over the age of 21 who might be interested in serving as an adult leader.

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The training consists of approximately 22 hours and covers basic medical aid, light search and rescue, firefighting, CERT organization, disaster preparedness, disaster psychology and a final exercise scenario.

Sheriff Golden invites interested teens and their parents to an informational session held on Tuesday Oct. 3, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Center, 2500 Kozloski Road Freehold, NJ 07728. Interested participants are asked to please RSVP for this event by emailing [teencert@mconj.org](mailto:teencert@mconj.org) or by calling 732-431-7400 ext. 1801.

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