

BEATS



Every day of Youth Week ends with an hour of physical training.

STARS

Monmouth County Graduates 25th Youth Week Class

Monmouth County (New Jersey) held its 25th annual Sheriff Youth Week in July, graduating 118 cadets. Sheriff Youth Week was launched in 1992 under Sheriff William M. Lanzaro, and has since exposed more than 1,500 young men and women to careers in law enforcement in a police academy environment.

"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," says Sheriff Shaun Golden, who is now serving his third consecutive three-year term. "The program provides the graduates with an opportunity to explore the realm of possibilities of a career in public safety. As a result, many will become our future leaders in law enforcement."

Sheriff Youth Week is open to high school-aged students who have graduated eighth grade and are entering high school, in high school, or recent high school graduates. Students from 38 Monmouth County communities participated in the program this year.

Each day of Sheriff Youth Week begins with an hour of drills and ends with at least an hour of physical training, led by certified Monmouth County Police Academy instructors. Students also complete coursework in background checks, online safety, drug and gang awareness, first aid, and other topics during the week. This year, youths also toured the Monmouth County Correctional Institution, the area's 1,328-bed jail, and participated in interactive sessions including a motor vehicle exercise, practice with a VirTra firearms simulator, and drone demonstrations.

"I really like Sheriff Youth Week," says participant Matthew Mentonis, of Marlboro. "It's been a great experience to learn about the different aspects of law enforcement careers and provided me with an understanding of what it's like to work in the profession."

More than 400 parents and friends attended graduation ceremonies; speakers included Golden; Richard Allen, principal of the Poseidon Early College High School in Neptune, New Jersey; and Francesca Dee, a graduate and intern with Sheriff Youth Week. Allen and Dee received special recognitions for their work with the program, along with Rev. John Morley of Seton Hall University, program chaplain, and Honorary Deputy Sheriff William Wingard and his family, for 25 years of sponsorship.

"This is my fourth year and it gets better and better," says graduate Gabrielle Freeman of Spring Lake. "There is so much to do, and new things to learn. I'm proud to have such a great opportunity." ✨



11

STARS

13

END OF WATCH

14

BULLHORN

16

BACK-UP