

Junior Police Academy brings law-enforcement work to youth

BY MATTHEW KEMENY
STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows police work is hardly child's play, but for a week this summer, junior high school students in Scranton will have the opportunity to get a first-hand look at how the city police department operates.

Loosely based on the popular Citizen's Police Academy program for adults, the department will host a Junior Police Academy this summer for city children entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

The program will give youngsters a close-up look at police work, including crime scene investigations, the SWAT team, bomb and canine (K-9) units, accident investigations and how the court and justice systems work. Children will also receive lessons about crimes and laws pertinent to their lives, such as

"It's pretty much an overall view of what the police department does and providing kids with a better understanding of the laws we enforce."

David Elliott

Scranton police chief

curfews, graffiti, underage drinking, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief and skateboarding regulations.

"It's pretty much an overall view of what the police department does and providing kids with a better understanding of the laws we enforce," Scranton Police Chief David Elliott said. "We're trying to open up the lines of communication between police and children."

The startup program will run Aug. 20 to 24, from 9 a.m. to noon. Applications, which can be picked up at police headquarters, 100 S. Washington Ave., will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

The program will accept between 30 and 35 students, Chief Elliott said. Already, about a dozen have signed up, he said.

There is no fee for the program. All costs are paid for by a state grant through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

The only requirement is that the student be a resident of the city and entering either sixth, seventh or eighth grades, Chief Elliott said.

For more information, parents can call administrative Lt. Leonard Namiotka at 348-4150.

Contact the writer:

mkemeny@timeshamrock.com