WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY REPORT

DISTRICT 1 FALL CONFERENCE, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022

The 5th Law Enforcement Career Academy was held from July 24-29, 2022. It is held at the Ft. McCoy Training Center. Applications are available for students in their Junior and Senior years of High School. We had 25 boys and 25 girls. The academy provides first-hand experiences and insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies.

Each day started with an 0500 wakeup and 0515 P.T. and marching exercises and ended with lights out at 2200. The meals were fantastic and I still miss them.

Day 1 consisted of orientation and physical readiness testing (pushups, sit-ups, vertical jumps)

Day 2 Ethics, de-escalation and peer support, tactical response, pit maneuvers (spinning a speeding car) and vehicle responses (measuring skid marks and calculating the corresponding speed, both with and without anti-lock brakes), and team building exercises (two sided puzzles and going through a grid, with dual teams, and rock climbing).

Day 3 Firearm range and hand to hand combat training, training and standards for local police, county police, and Federal Law Enforcement.

Day 4 Crime Scene Investigation, OWI training, crash investigation, Human Trafficking, and K-9 Demonstration.

Day 5 Day in the Life of an Investigator, motorcycle demonstrations, probation and parole, sex offender registry.

Day 6 DNR, reflection exercise (these are smart, compassionate, and passionate kids), graduation.

These kids leave with a comprehensive understanding of what it takes to have a career in law enforcement and the numerous opportunities to specialize in serving the community and nation.

District 2 Commander and Sheriff Jim Johnson shared a slide presentation of one of his murder cases, that took decades to solve. He showed the dedication and perseverance necessary in an investigation, to find justice for the victim and family. He also showed a series of slides from his combat mission. At the conclusion, the Legion staff performed a flag folding ceremony, detailing the meaning in each fold. The ceremonial display led to most of the kids sobbing. They truly have an appreciation for veterans and law enforcement officers. The staff and cadets will forever share a special bond.

This program absolutely delivers on the American Legion’s mission to empower youth with American exceptionalism. It’s with great pride that I am a member of this team and an honor to share the academy with you.

Respectfully and humbly submitted by:

Michelle Adams