



Avon Police Cadets

Avon Police Cadets, a community-oriented program, operates year-round under the direction of the Town of Avon, its Police Chief, Directors, and Advisors. Its mission is to engage youth through activities centered on career opportunities in law enforcement, community service, character development, leadership experience and life skills.

To be considered for membership, candidates must be an Avon resident (or reside in a town lacking a similar youth program); be at least 14 years of age and have completed the first semester of 8th grade. Both the Canton and Simsbury Police Departments are now partnering with the Avon Police Cadet program to offer this opportunity to Canton and Simsbury youth.

Throughout the year, members participate in a variety of community service activities including Avon Police Department's Stuff-a-Cruiser, Holiday Dinner at the Senior Center, Tip-A-Cop, and Special Olympics fundraisers. Additionally, members assist with traffic and safety at Avon's Memorial Day and Celebrate Avon events.

While it is not required, most Cadets share an interest in law enforcement. Cadets receive extensive training in Building Search & Felony Response; C.P.R. & First Aid; Disturbance Calls; Domestic Disturbances; D.U.I. Enforcement; Emotionally Disturbed Persons; Felony Traffic Stops; High Stress Scenarios; Officer Safety & Suspicious Persons; P.O.S.T. Fitness Assessment; Radio Procedures & Traffic Direction; Traffic Stops & Suspicious Vehicles, Mountain Biking; and/or Random Stations. Random Stations participants receive additional training in Crisis Intervention and Search & Control. Additionally, eligible Cadets may attend the Cadet Police Academy and/or be selected to compete at Law Enforcement Stations Day.

The Post provides numerous academic, leadership, and team-building experiences. "Leadership in Life", a program designed to help young adults reach their full potential in all aspects of life, is available to all Cadets, especially those aspiring to be Post Officers. Additionally, Cadets receive instruction in Drill & Ceremony. Team-building activities offered to Cadets include a Leadership Reaction Course; Obstacle Courses; Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Educational Association Outings; and the High and Low Ropes Challenge Course. Eligible Cadets may also attend the FBI National Academy Associates Connecticut Chapter Youth Leadership Program.

Through active participation, Cadets gain a variety of benefits and privileges. For instance, Cadets may be issued a uniform and equipment. Additionally, eligible Cadets may participate in ride-alongs. Cadets may also be invited to attend recognition gatherings, including Cadet Individual and Post photographs and Cadet Appreciation Socials. Socials provide Cadets with opportunities to interact in a "safe and positive" environment.

The Cadet program offers opportunity for advancement to higher rank, through a promotional examination process. This process consists of a written examination and oral board interview. Cadets who complete the promotional process successfully can be promoted to the ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant of the Avon Police Cadets.

For more information on the Avon Police Cadets program, please contact Sergeant Jennifer Raspardo (jraspardo@avonct.gov - 860-409-4274) or Officer Ryan Cuscovitch (rcuscovitch@avonct.gov - 860-409-4299).