SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY
prevention – protection – enforcement

SOUTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
118 West Capitol Avenue · Pierre, South Dakota 57501
Telephone: 605·773·3105 Fax: 605·773·6046
Web: dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway_patrol/

Dear Guidance Counselor:

The South Dakota Highway Patrol and the American Legion of South Dakota are sponsoring the 1st annual Youth Trooper Academy from Monday June 25th through Friday June 29th, 2012. The program will take place at the George S. Mickelson Criminal Justice Training Center in Pierre, South Dakota. The Youth Trooper Academy allows interested students the opportunity to learn about law enforcement and to experience life similar to that of a Recruit Trooper.

Attached you will find a flyer and applications. Please feel free to make copies of each if needed. There are a limited number of spots available and the deadline for turning in applications is April 20th, 2012.

We are seeking good students, both male and female, with an interest in law enforcement. The students must be 16 or 17 years of age by the start of the academy (June 25th) and entering their senior year of High School. The students must also be in good physical condition and possess a valid driver license.

Because this program is new to South Dakota, we understand you may have some questions regarding the program and the selection process. If you have questions regarding the application process or the Youth Trooper Academy itself, please contact Sergeant Doug Coughlin at 605.773.2231 or doug.coughlin@state.sd.us.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol and the American Legion of South Dakota want to thank you in advance for your assistance in recruiting students for this program.

Regards,

Colonel Craig Price
South Dakota Highway Patrol

INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT?

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 1ST ANNUAL

YOUTH TROOPER ACADEMY

Sponsored by the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the American Legion of South Dakota

South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Center

Pierre, South Dakota

Monday June 25th through Friday June 29th, 2012

Contact your guidance counselor for an application or visit the SDHP website at:

http://dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway_patrol/default.aspx

Application deadline is April 20th, 2012

For additional information contact:

Sergeant Doug Coughlin

Director of Training and Recruit Academy

South Dakota Highway Patrol

605.773.2231 doug.coughlin@state.sd.us

South Dakota Highway Patrol

American Legion of South Dakota

June 25-29, 2012

(no cost to student)

Please return application form and essay to:

The American Legion Department of South Dakota

PO Box 67 Watertown SD 57201

Deadline for Applications is April 20th, 2012

Name of Applicant: _____

(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: _____

(Street) (City) State) (Zip)

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Driver License Number: _____

School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Pant Size: _____ Adult Shirt Size: _____

S/M/L/XL

Parents/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: (H)_____ (W)_____ (Cell)_____

Emergency Name and Number (other than parent or guardian)

_____

_____

APPLICATION ESSAY

Please submit a TYPED essay along with your application.

TOPIC: Why I would like to attend the 2012 SDHP Youth Trooper Academy.

Length of essay: One (1) page and enclose with application

Must be completed by School Resource Officer or School Counselor:

Counselor or SRO name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Recommendations / Comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Signature of Counselor or SRO:

_____ Date: _____

YOUTH TROOPER ACADEMY REQUIRED ITMES

(KEEP THIS PAGE FOR USE AS A CHECKLIST)

Wearing Apparel:

____Modest night wear (e.g. T-shirt, shorts)

____One sweatshirt (black or blue)

____One pair of black or brown colored shoes (not gym shoes)

____Sufficient white t-shirts, socks, and underwear for a week

(Pants and polo shirts provided)

Athletic Apparel:

____Athletic clothing (T-shirts and shorts)

____Athletic shoes / running shoes

____Gym socks

____Bathing suit

Additional Items:

____Wash cloth and towels

____Bath towel

____Shower shoes

____Swim towel

____Laundry bag

____Pillow

____Personal toiletry items

(Blankets and bedding provided)

No facilities are available for the purchase of any of the above articles. It is suggested that no large sums of money be brought to the Academy.

DO NOT BRING JEWELRY, CANDY.GUM,IPOD, RADIO, CELL PHONE, LAPTOP, ETC.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sergeant Doug Coughlin

Director of Training and Recruit Academy

South Dakota Highway Patrol

605.773.2231 doug.coughlin@state.sd.us

The American Legion of South Dakota and the South Dakota Highway Patrol Youth Trooper Academy Overview

The Program:

The South Dakota Highway Patrol Youth Trooper Academy is a cooperative effort between the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the American Legion of South Dakota.

Our mission is to recruit young men and women from culturally diverse backgrounds from across the state of South Dakota, and to increase their understanding of the job of a state trooper and a law enforcement officer. The program is designed to expose young adults to the demands of Highway Patrol Recruit training and to develop better relationships between the youth of our state and the Highway Patrol.

The Youth Trooper Academy is an intensive, one week, residential learning experience for young adults ages 16-17, who are entering their senior year of High School. The Youth Academy is held at the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pierre, South Dakota. The Youth Academy is not a summer camp and is not designed for troubled teenagers. The program is mentally and physically demanding. The SDHP Youth Trooper Academy utilizes a paramilitary approach to training, and discipline is strict. Candidates should be highly motivated, of good moral and ethical character, and have an interest in a career in law enforcement.

Veteran South Dakota Highway Patrol troopers will serve as mentors and chaperones during the week. Troopers and officers from other law enforcement agencies throughout the state of South Dakota will provide classroom and hands-on training in topics such as firearms safety, defensive driving, crash investigation, traffic stops, leadership, defensive tactics, and criminal law. Youth Academy Cadets will also get to experience demonstrations from the Highway Patrol's special operations section such as air craft operation, SWAT, and Police Service Dogs.

Cadets that graduate from the program will be proud of their accomplishments. The lessons learned from this program will serve them well for years to come.

The 2012 South Dakota Highway Patrol Youth Trooper Academy runs June 25th – 29th. Space in the program is limited to 16 students from across the state.

Qualifications:

The program is open to male and female high school students 16-17 years of age who are entering their senior year of high school and have an interest in a career in law enforcement.

Candidates must be in good academic standing with their high school. They must be of good moral character and present a well-groomed appearance.

The candidates must possess a valid SD driver license.

The Youth Trooper Academy is physically demanding; those requiring special diets or having physical needs cannot be accepted. The program is open to all, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, or national origin.

Applications:

Applications may be obtained from any American Legion Post Commander or high school. Applications must be authorized by an American Legion Post.

If accepted, it will be the responsibility of the student to obtain a doctor's certification attesting to his or her fitness. This form will be mailed to successful applicants and must be returned on the date indicated.

A parent or legal guardian must sign a release of liability for the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the American Legion of South Dakota. The release of liability form is contained in the application and must be returned along with the student's application. Travel to and from the youth trooper academy will be the responsibility of the applicant.

Application deadline is April 20th, 2012.

Apply early as space is limited.

It is our hope that participants in the South Dakota Highway Patrol Youth Trooper Academy will return to their communities with a clearer understanding of state trooper responsibilities and law enforcement in general. We are confident the Youth Trooper Academy will instill in these young men and women a newfound or increased respect for the law enforcement and when they return to their communities, they will share their experiences.

All accepted applicants will be sent a packet which includes:

- A formal letter of acceptance with report date and time
- Required equipment and clothing list
- Medical verification form
- List of personal items to bring
- Directions to the SD Law Enforcement Training Academy

If you have questions about the South Dakota Highway Patrol Youth Academy, please contact:

Sergeant Doug Coughlin
Director of Training and Recruit Academy
South Dakota Highway Patrol
Phone: 605.773.2231
Email: doug.coughlin@state.sd.us