



EFFECTIVE POLICE INTERACTIONS WITH YOUTH

Tactics that Work for Patrol Officers

PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN

- The role of patrol officers in helping to eliminate the problem of disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system.
- Why adolescents tend to test boundaries, challenge authority, and have difficulty controlling impulses and making sound decisions.
- Strategies for communicating more effectively with young people and improving police/youth relations.

EVALUATION

In an evaluation with an experimental design using pre- and post-testing and a control group, the curriculum has been shown to increase knowledge and improve police attitudes towards youth. This evaluation is the subject of a current article in Police Quarterly, June 2010. The evaluation report itself is available at www.ct.gov/opm/dmc.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This training was designed for law enforcement personnel. Key police trainers, DMC Coordinators and DMC committee members may want to attend a session to see it themselves as they determine if this curriculum might be suitable for their jurisdiction and a project their group might want to undertake.

COSTS

Persons completing a 3-day Effective Police Interactions with Youth “Train the Trainer” course offered by Connecticut will receive the curriculum at no charge.

This will include a binder with the Instructor’s Guide and a CD with the curriculum in a format that can be easily modified. To attend the one-day training in Connecticut there is no cost, but travel expenses. To bring a one-day training to your city for up to 30 trainees will cost \$1,100 plus travel expenses for two trainees from Connecticut. To bring a “Train the Trainer” course for up to 10 trainees (and receive the curriculum) will cost \$4,500 plus travel expenses for two trainers. All local training arrangements and logistics will be the responsibility of requesting agency.



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CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

“Effective Police Interactions with Youth” is a one-day (5.5 hours of instruction) training delivered via classroom instruction by two certified police trainers who are experienced youth officers or School Resource Officers (SROs). The training is divided into five sections:

- Introduction: “Why We Are Here”
- Topic 1: “Equal Treatment of Diverse Youth”
- Topic 2: “Why Youth Do What They Do”
- Topic 3: “Police/Youth Relations” and
- Summary: “Putting It All Together”

The goals of the training are to:

- (A) Increase patrol officer awareness of DMC
- (B) Increase patrol officer knowledge of youth behavior and strategies for interacting effectively with youth
- (C) Improve police attitudes toward young people
- (D) Increase the likelihood that police/youth interactions will have positive outcomes for youth; and
- (E) Increase the likelihood that youth will respond positively toward police officers.

“I came away feeling that I learned things I could take back with me and use.”

“The training gave me the opportunity to hear what the youth of today think of police and how we could better the interaction.”

97% of trainees rated the training very or reasonably interesting.

For more information go to www.ct.gov/opm/dmc or contact Valerie LaMotte at valerie.lamotte@ct.gov or 860-418-6316.