



Bethlehem Police Department Citizens Police Academy - *Rules and Regulations 2025* -

Purpose: The Bethlehem Police Department Citizens Police Academy is designed to give citizens the opportunity to learn about the Bethlehem Police Department and its operations and to demonstrate the benefits of law enforcement and community policing in our community. The Citizens Police Academy also gives our department an opportunity to interact with the community and solicit their feedback and ideas through discussion of relevant issues. It is the intention of the Bethlehem Police Department, through this eight-week academy course to provide citizens with knowledge and understanding of the functions and responsibilities of providing law enforcement services in the City of Bethlehem.

Program Explanation: The Citizens Police Academy includes:

- 1) A structured atmosphere
- 2) A wide variety of classroom instruction and interaction
- 3) Exciting hands-on training
- 4) A number of demonstrations and a graduation ceremony

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be at least 18 years of age or 16 y/o and accompanied by a parent or guardian. To graduate, you will need to attend 7 of the 8 sessions of the academy.

Academy Schedule: The 2025 Citizens Police Academy will commence on Wednesday, 9/10/25 and run for 8 consecutive weeks each Wednesday. The last class will be 10/29/25. Each session will start at 6:30 pm and end at approximately 8:30 pm. Classes will be held at the Bethlehem Police Department unless otherwise directed to an off-site location.

Academy Rules: The purpose of these rules is to establish a code of conduct and general requirements to ensure an informative, enjoyable and a professional experience for all participants.

- 1) **Attendance and Punctuality:** Due to the program's length, an unexcused absence from more than one class is not allowed for graduation. Punctuality is essential. Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes prior to the beginning of class and be seated at class time.
- 2) **Conduct:** Please remember that the Academy is intended for the benefit of all who attend. Participants should arrive to class prepared to contribute to the discussion and other activities. Students shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and be sensitive to the needs and concerns of others in the class. Participants shall not be argumentative with instructors or other classmates during the class.

There will be an opportunity to critique the class and the instructor at the conclusion of the academy.

- 3) **Dress Code:** Each participant shall be neatly dressed. The guidelines are as follows:
 - a. A plain shirt or blouse void of any offensive graphics.
 - b. A pair of jeans or similar pants in good repair.
 - c. Sneakers or shoes in good repair.
 - d. No hats will be permitted in the classroom.
- 4) **Smoking:** Smoking is not permitted in the building.
- 5) **Cell Phones:** Cell phones on vibrate mode are permitted in the classroom. Cell phones are not permitted to be used in the classroom.
- 6) **Discipline and Removal:** In the event a participant's conduct is disruptive to the class or he or she violates the rules, the individual may be terminated from the program. Respect for others is mandatory.
- 7) **Eating and Drinking:** Refreshments will be allowed in the classroom
- 8) **Waiver:** There will be a waiver at the beginning of the first class that needs to be signed in order for you to participate.