

Will County Sheriffs Auxiliary

About the Auxiliary Unit

The Auxiliary is a remarkable testament to the power of community service and dedication. For approximately 70 years, it has brought together individuals from all walks of life, spanning generations and professions, united by a shared commitment to serving the community. Whether they are students, truck drivers, firefighters, or corporate executives, each member brings their own unique skill set and perspective to the table.

As conservators of the peace, Auxiliary Deputies hold a position of trust and responsibility within the community, with full arrest powers while on duty. Their journey begins with a training regimen at the Sheriff's part-time academy. Once sworn in, they play a pivotal role in maintaining public safety, from traffic control to assisting with special events and supporting full-time deputies.

What sets the Auxiliary apart is not just their duties, but the sense of purpose and camaraderie that binds them together. Driven by a deep-seated desire to make a difference and uphold the values of community service, Auxiliary Deputies find fulfillment in helping others and ensuring the safety of their neighbors. Their shared identity as Citizen-Deputies fosters a tight-knit bond and a sense of pride in their collective mission.

The Auxiliary unit embodies the best of what it means to be part of a community, selflessness, dedication, and a commitment to making a positive impact. Their unwavering service underscores the importance of coming together for the greater good, ensuring that Will County remains a safe and thriving place for all who call it home.

History of the Auxiliary Unit

The creation of the Will County Sheriff's Auxiliary in the late 1950s was a response to the unique challenges and needs of the rural community during that era. Originally known as the Will County Sheriff's Safety Patrol, its primary objective was to augment the efforts of staff deputies in patrolling the vast rural community spanning 835 square miles.

During this era, communication technology was limited, few homes equipped with telephones and the concept of a mobile phone was still decades away from realization. In such circumstances, seeking assistance while stranded or in need of help on the rural

roads of Will County could be a daunting prospect, with considerable delays before aid could arrive.

To address this challenge and ensure the safety and security of residents, volunteers stepped forward to patrol the county, providing a vital lifeline to those in need. These dedicated individuals, driven by a sense of duty and community spirit, played a crucial role in enhancing public safety and providing assistance to those in distress.

The creation of the Will County Sheriff's Safety Patrol reflects the proactive approach taken by Sheriff's Department to adapt to the evolving needs of their communities. Through the dedication and selflessness of its volunteers, the Auxiliary unit has continued to uphold its mission of serving and protecting the residents of Will County, leaving a legacy of commitment and community engagement.

The Role and Function of Auxiliary Deputies

The Auxiliary unit is a volunteer division of the Will County Sheriff's Department. The main function of the Auxiliary Police is to provide support to the Will County Sheriff.

Auxiliary Deputies are utilized on both an assigned and call-out basis, as well to ride-along with officers on patrol.

[Click here to learn more about how Auxiliary Deputies are utilized.](#)

Provide additional police manpower: During large scale events, festivals, carnivals, fairs, parades, and firework displays.

Enhance police presence: at smaller events, such as athletic events, and church functions.

Provide Traffic Control: In situations like crashes, fires, or other emergencies, auxiliary deputies assist in directing traffic and implementing road closures.

Supporting Disaster Response: During natural disasters, severe weather events, or other emergencies like snowstorms or floods, auxiliary deputies provide additional manpower and support to aid in the response efforts.

Supporting Full-Time Staff on Patrol: Auxiliary deputies also support full-time staff by participating in patrols. This involves accompanying officers on patrol duties, providing assistance as needed, and contributing to law enforcement efforts in the community.

Serving in Specialized Units: Auxiliary deputies may have the opportunity to serve in various specialized units. This could include units such as Traffic, CSI, K9, or community outreach programs.

Other Assigned Duties: In addition to the above responsibilities, auxiliary deputies are prepared to undertake any other duties assigned by the Sheriff.

Exploring the Reasons to Become an Auxiliary Deputy

Overall, becoming an auxiliary deputy offers a meaningful way to contribute to the community, support law enforcement efforts, gain valuable experience, and grow as an individual.

Being part of the Will County Sheriff's Auxiliary isn't just about serving the community—it's also about personal growth. Through dedication, training, and service, members become better individuals. They cultivate qualities like empathy, integrity, and leadership, essential not only in law enforcement but also in everyday life. By volunteering their time and skills, they strengthen their connection to the community and develop a profound sense of purpose and fulfillment. Ultimately, being part of the Auxiliary isn't just about making a difference in the world; it's also about becoming the best version of oneself.

[Click here to explore additional reasons why joining the Auxiliary can be a rewarding decision](#)

Desire to Serve the Community: Many individuals are drawn to becoming auxiliary deputies due to their strong desire to give back to their community and make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Support for Law Enforcement: Auxiliary deputies have a deep respect for law enforcement and want to support the efforts of local police departments in a real tangible way.

Steppingstone to a Career in Law Enforcement: For some, serving as an auxiliary deputy can serve as a valuable steppingstone towards a career in law enforcement. It offers an opportunity to gain firsthand experience and insight into the profession.

Access to Training and Experience: Auxiliary deputies have access to training and experiences that are typically only available within the law enforcement profession. This includes specialized training in areas such as firearms, defensive tactics, and emergency response.

Partnering with Staff Patrol Units: Working alongside full-time deputies allows auxiliary deputies to partner with experienced law enforcement professionals, learning from their expertise and gaining valuable on-the-job training.

Ride-Along Opportunities: Auxiliary deputies often have the chance to participate in ride-alongs with specialized units such as Crime Scene Investigation (CSI), Traffic, K9, and more.

Personal Growth: Serving as an auxiliary deputy can also lead to personal growth and development. It fosters qualities such as leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and decision-making skills, which can benefit individuals both personally and professionally.

Requirements

The requirements to become an auxiliary deputy with the Will County Sheriff's Department typically include:

Age Requirement: Candidates must be at least 21 years of age.

Residency: Candidates are required to reside within Will County.

Drug Screening: Candidates must pass a drug screening test as part of the application process.

Background Check: A thorough background check is conducted to assess the candidate's criminal history, employment history, and other relevant background information.

Polygraph Test: Candidates may be required to undergo a polygraph (lie detector) test to verify the accuracy of the information provided during the application process.

In addition to these requirements, candidates may also need to meet other criteria specified by the Will County Sheriff's Department.

Expectations

The expectations for auxiliary deputies with the Will County Sheriff's Department typically include:

Time Commitment: Auxiliary deputies are expected to dedicate approximately 20 hours per month to their volunteer duties. This may include participating in patrols, attending meetings, training sessions, and other departmental activities.

Mandatory Events: Auxiliary deputies are required to attend certain mandatory events, such as the Will County Fair and Homer Fest. These events may involve providing support to law enforcement efforts, ensuring public safety, or representing the department in the community.

Continuing Education: Auxiliary deputies are expected to engage in ongoing education and training to maintain and enhance their skills and knowledge. This may include participating in monthly online continuing education sessions, which typically last around one hour per month.

In addition to these specific expectations, auxiliary deputies are also expected to adhere to departmental policies and procedures, maintain professionalism and integrity in their conduct, and represent the Will County Sheriff's Department positively in their interactions with the public.

Application process

The application process to become an auxiliary deputy with the Will County Sheriff's Department typically follows these steps:

Submit Short Form Application: Interested individuals start by submitting a short form application expressing their interest in the position.

Attend Orientation: Applicants who meet the initial criteria may be invited to attend an orientation session. This orientation provides an overview of the auxiliary deputy program, its requirements, and expectations.

Submit Long Form Application: After attending the orientation, applicants are usually required to submit a more detailed long form application, providing additional personal and background information.

Background Check: A thorough background check is conducted to verify the applicant's criminal history, employment history, and other relevant background information.

Fingerprinting: Applicants may be required to undergo fingerprinting as part of the background check process.

Drug Test: Applicants must pass a drug screening test to ensure they are free from illegal drug use.

In-Home Interview: Applicants may participate in an in-home interview, where a representative from the department visits the applicant's home to discuss their suitability for the position.

Polygraph Test: Applicants are required to undergo a polygraph (lie detector) test to verify the accuracy of the information provided during the application process.

Psychological Test: Applicants are required to undergo a psychological evaluation to assess their mental and emotional suitability for the role.

Panel Interview: Finally, applicants may be interviewed by a panel of representatives from the department, including members of the executive board. This interview aims to assess the applicant's qualifications, suitability, and commitment to the role.

Academy Training

The Academy Training for auxiliary deputies typically covers a comprehensive range of topics. Recognizing the diverse schedules of candidates, classes are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, ensuring accessibility for those balancing full-time employment.

The Academy caters to full-time professionals. The training curriculum ensures that auxiliary deputies are thoroughly equipped to handle a wide array of situations and challenges they may encounter in their role. From legal procedures to practical patrol techniques, the training covers all aspects essential for effective law enforcement support. This comprehensive training instills confidence in auxiliary deputies, enabling them to serve their community with professionalism and competence.

Closing statement

The Auxiliary unit plays a crucial role in supporting law enforcement efforts and ensuring the safety and well-being of communities within Will County. Auxiliary Deputies are utilized in various capacities, providing additional manpower during events, enhancing police presence, assisting with traffic control and disaster response, supporting full-time staff on patrol, and serving in specialized units. Becoming an auxiliary deputy offers individuals an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to their community, support law enforcement efforts, gain valuable experience, and grow personally and professionally. With a comprehensive training curriculum, auxiliary deputies are equipped to handle diverse challenges and make a positive impact. Their dedication, determination, and integrity exemplify the values of service and commitment to public safety. In essence, the men and women of the Will County Sheriff's Auxiliary are true assets to their communities, embodying the spirit of volunteerism and making a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Will County Sheriff's Auxiliary isn't just about serving the community—it's also about personal growth. Through dedication, training, and service, members become better individuals. They cultivate qualities like empathy, integrity, and leadership, essential not only in law enforcement but also in everyday life. By volunteering their time and skills, they strengthen their connection to the community and develop a profound sense of purpose and fulfillment. Ultimately, being part of the Auxiliary isn't just about making a difference in the world; it's also about becoming the best version of oneself.

In essence, the Auxiliary is a journey of service, growth, and empowerment. It's a testament to the transformative power of community involvement and volunteerism.

Links & Contact info

Prospective members can download the application form by clicking on the following link:

[Auxiliary Deputy Application Form.](#)

For more information or if you are interested in becoming a member, contact Sgt. Kyle Lakomiak at 815-727-3263 or email [Sgt. Lakomiak](mailto:klakomiak@willcosheriffaux.org) directly at klakomiak@willcosheriffaux.org.