

HEROES MATTER

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SAFE HARBOR

A PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY





HEROES MATTER!

This booklet is designed to help you participate in the process of educating your children regarding public safety issues.

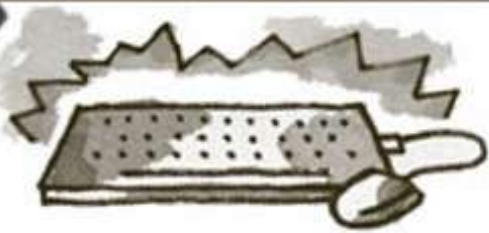
It will assist you in introducing young people to the vast safety net that protects the United States. At the heart of these efforts is central value to which all young people should aspire -- COURAGE and HEROISM.

Make respect for those virtues the ultimate objective during your visit SAFE HARBOR.





WELCOME TO SAFE HARBOR



GET STARTED

Before you begin, take a few minutes to visit SAFE HARBOR (JuniorPoliceAcademy.org) with your youngster. Be sure the visit both SAFE HARBOR the city and the Training Isles.

While in SAFE HARBOR or the TRAINING ISLES – all young people are duly sworn in as YOUR CADET. Your discussions should follow accordingly. Ask hypothetical questions of young YOUR CADET assuming they are the public safety officer in charge. The interactive environment will provide plenty of facts for a spirited discussion!]

Once your young person has explored SAFE HARBOR, discuss the information found on the site. You might ask:

- List various kinds of emergency situations.
- Ask your cadet if they can list strategies the U.S Government has put in place to fight terrorism. (For instance: Airport security or the Office of Homeland Security’s warning system.)

Now review with your young person the public safety agencies profiled in this guide on following pages. Start by describing the agency or department’s purpose. Discuss their preparedness strategy and how they respond to a national emergency.



The following activities designed to celebrate and examine acts of courage.

ACTIVITY 1

What is a HERO?

Before we begin any celebration of heroism, we must decide what makes someone a hero. Encourage your cadet to discuss what it means to act heroically. Begin by writing this definition on a note pad:

COURAGE: That firmness of character which meets danger with a steadfast and unbroken spirit.

Have your cadet brainstorm qualities that make a person a hero and write them in the notepad.

A Hero Who Has Touched Your Life
Think about a hero or heroine who has touched your life—perhaps it is a grandparent, big brother, or teacher.

On this sheet of paper:

1. List the qualities that make him or her heroic.
2. Write a story about a heroic action the person has performed. In your story, be sure to include at least two of the qualities from your list.

On a separate sheet of paper:

3. Illustrate one moment of the story or a sequence of events.





ACTIVITY 2

My Personal Hero?

Ask your cadet to choose a person whom they feel is a hero and ask them to explain why they feel that person is a hero. Ask your cadet to consider that who we choose as heroes tells us what our culture really values.

ACTIVITY 3

Research Assignment

Ask your cadet to select a hero. Allow for library and computer research time for your cadet to find information about their hero. Stress the need to gather more than just factual achievements or actions. Indicate the importance of finding out personal information about the hero. The objective of the lesson is to understand how heroes are three-dimensional figures and come from backgrounds not dissimilar from our own.

Specific questions that your cadet will need to answer about their hero include:

1. Describe the hero's childhood.
2. What values were instilled in the hero?
3. How might the hero's background have influenced his or her future accomplishments?
4. Was there a turning point in the hero's life?
5. Perhaps an important event or tragic moment which motivated the hero?
6. What lessons did the hero learn from this turning point?
7. Describe the moment(s) which make him or her a hero?
8. What action did the hero take? What were the risks the hero faced?





ACTIVITY 4 Heroes Among Us

While most of us think of a hero as someone who is famous and is hailed publicly for their achievements, we should also consider the heroes in our own lives. While these individuals will probably never receive national recognition, their impact on our own life is no less profound.

Ask the your cadet to consider the following:

1. Name a teacher who has made a difference in your life?
2. Name a friend whose own achievement has inspired you?
3. Name someone in your community whose act of bravery motivated you?
4. Think of a moment in your own life when others considered you to have acted heroically?

The lesson:

The heroes who make a difference in our life are not always found in the headlines or immortalized in stone. They are just as likely to be exceptional people who live down the street or who work in your school. While we know them as our mother, father, friend, teacher, pastor, public safety officer or next door neighbor – we should still appreciate their role in our life as a true hero.





ACTIVITY 5

Movie

A good movie is capable of touching the soul. Choose a movie that features a hero. View the movie with your your cadet and encourage them to discuss those actions that made the characters heroic. Suggestions in order of age-appropriateness include: True Grit, The Incredibles, Braveheart, Glory, The Right Stuff, To Kill a Mockingbird & The Miracle Worker.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS

The law enforcement officers who created "HEROES MATTER" did so in the firm conviction that heroes are men and women who embody our view of the highest human potential.

Life requires achievement, whatever the degree of one's ability — from the mechanic who works to start his own small business to the industrialist who creates a new industry.

And that is why every youngster needs heroes. Your youngsters draw strength from living examples of someone working towards a goal, and overcoming great obstacles. They need it because it shows them that they can — and should — do the same in their own lives.

This is the ultimate goal of this GUIDE. We hope you are successful.



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