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ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CELEBRATES ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

The Essex Sheriff’s Department Youth Leadership Academy has concluded another successful summer. The program is a non-profit educational service that provides a structured youth diversion program for at risk adolescents 8-15 years of age by providing the necessary skills and tools to enable them to contribute to their communities by example as proactive and positive citizens.

This Academy is held for eight weeks during the summer months and free for all participants. There are two age groups: The Junior Academy serves ages 8-11 and the Senior Academy serves ages 12-15. This well-structured and disciplined program uses a wide variety of game and team-building activities which will help develop teamwork and cooperation.

“We have a great opportunity to provide meaningful experiences that address and inform these kids about the issues they face today,” said Sheriff Kevin Coppinger. “Our Program Director Allisson Hernandez, our Correctional Officers and criminal justice interns do a great job providing positive messages and experiences for these great kids.”

This summer, 525 youth across Essex County participated. Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) sponsor this youth academy. Programs include CPR, internet safety, anti-bullying, drug and alcohol awareness, seatbelt, fire and water safety. Other activities include a ropes course and Laser Quest. This one of a kind well-structured program uses a wide variety of team building activities to develop teamwork, and cooperation.

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