



CITY OF  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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## GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE BIPD AT THE 2018 CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

**Bainbridge Island, WA** (December, 2017): Bainbridge Island residents can meet the men and women that protect the city, ride along with a police officer and experience what goes on behind the scenes at the Bainbridge Island Police Department's free Citizens' Police Academy coming up in February.

The Citizens' Police Academy is only offered once a year, and the 2018 program runs from February 7 through April 25. Classes are held Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with two additional Saturday sessions. Students have the opportunity to visit the 911 dispatch center, the Kitsap County Coroner's Office, and the Kitsap County Jail. The Citizens' Police Academy gives citizens access to information on how the police department functions. The intent of the program is to provide individuals that live or work on Bainbridge Island a chance to see how their police department functions and to better understand the types of challenges officers face daily. However, the BIPD has allowed those that don't live on the island to apply, for example individuals considering becoming a BIPD officer.

According to 2017 Citizens' Academy graduate, Ruth Schmidt, "The classes enabled me to gain insight into law enforcement in the best way possible: by hearing first-hand from Bainbridge Island officers about their role in our community. I really gained an appreciation for the job they do and for the dedication required to do it. It was an outstanding experience."

Chief of Police Matthew Hamner explains, "The program was started to give citizens insight into what officers do while on patrol. It's a great experience, as students get to experience quite a bit behind the scenes and also have the opportunity to get acquainted with some of the officers who serve them."

Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and class size is limited to 20 students. Call the BIPD at 206.842.5211 to obtain an application or visit the Police page on the city website: <http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/789/Citizens-Academy>. For more information contact Officer Carla Sias at [csias@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:csias@bainbridgewa.gov).

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