

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE
EDUCATION**

FLORIDA D.A.R.E. TRAINING CENTER

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

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Letter from D.A.R.E Coordinator

On behalf of the Florida Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program, I am pleased to announce that 2021 was another amazing year. I am frequently asked if D.A.R.E. is still around and if D.A.R.E. really works. The answer remains a definite "Yes!". The D.A.R.E. program is growing with educational programs on subjects including opioid abuse prevention, vaping and teen suicide. Because of the partnering with educational institutions to adapt the curricula, D.A.R.E. has new enhanced lessons which include bullying, cyber security, a supplemental marijuana lesson, family talks, mental health, celebration of life lessons and the recently launched K-12 Opioid Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention lessons.

With the D.A.R.E. curriculum constantly being updated to address current issues facing our children, it is important that the school resource officers stay well-trained on the updates. We conducted our 85th Florida D.A.R.E. Officer Training (DOT) salary incentive certification class this year at the B Ocean Resort Conference Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

This year's training conference had 27 graduating students from the following 12 agencies: Margate Police Department (PD), Doral PD, Marion County Sheriff's Office (SO), Lake County SO, Coral Gables PD, Coconut Creek PD, Ocala PD, Lowndes County (Georgia) SO, Ormond Beach PD, Madison County SO, Key Biscayne PD and Port Orange PD. This year's training team was facilitated by Corporal Ken Vila (Collier County SO), Annette Castor (Collier County SO), Lieutenant Anglie Hightower-Holmes (Gadsden County SO), Deputy Lisa McCumber (Nassau County SO), Deputy Terry Allen (Retired, Lake County SO) and Lieutenant Fred Jones (Lake County SO).

On November 9, 2021, the Florida Sheriffs Association, in partnership with the Florida Sheriffs Institute, hosted a webinar training course titled "The New DARE and 2022 Training Calendar". Presenters were Danny Talley, southeast D.A.R.E. America coordinator, Kim Hawkes central D.A.R.E. America coordinator and FDLE Inspector David Bullard. The training's learning objectives included an overview of the new DARE curricula and programs, core and enhancement lessons and the 2022 Florida DARE officer training calendar. The presenters had the opportunity to answer questions from Florida's sheriffs, police chiefs and command staff. I am pleased to announce that there were 56 webinar participants that day.

As we enter 2022, we are preparing for our next D.A.R.E Officer Training classes this summer in Seminole County, Florida and Broward County, Florida.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing D.A.R.E. training to Florida's youth. This is very much a team effort and we commend you for your exemplary efforts.

Inspector David Bullard
Florida D.A.R.E. Coordinator

D.A.R.E. Program Overview

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) has been actively involved with the D.A.R.E. program since 1988. It is a statewide diversion and prevention program for drug abuse in juveniles that is administered throughout Florida's schools. The primary role and responsibility of FDLE in the D.A.R.E. program is to serve as the state training coordinator and program administrator. This administration includes preparation and oversight of the budget, training, and certification of officers and preparation of the annual D.A.R.E. report. Additionally, FDLE is responsible for ensuring compliance with national standards, delivery of technical assistance and providing statewide program management.

The D.A.R.E. program was developed and implemented in California in 1983 through the combined efforts of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Unified School District. The initial 17-week curriculum was designed to provide awareness and facts to elementary school students with the intent that this knowledge would help them resist peer pressure to experiment with alcohol and other drugs. Gang and violence prevention strategies were included in that curriculum to provide a more solid foundation for our children. The evaluations of the curriculum for students in grades 6 through 9 show students completing the course experienced a:

- 32 to 44 percent reduction in marijuana, tobacco, and alcohol use,
- 29 to 34 percent decrease in intent to accept substances,
- Reduction and cessation in substance use among those already using.

Although the program has undergone revisions over its 38 years, D.A.R.E. continues to be a law enforcement officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through high school how to make good decisions and wise choices. The curricula cover a wide range of risks, including drug use, that children face daily and encourage them to lead a positive lifestyle. Today, D.A.R.E. is in over 70 percent of school districts nationally, and has been implemented in more than 50 countries. And, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, "the D.A.R.E. program offers students the opportunity to gain a trustworthy adult friend, develop a positive attitude toward law enforcement personnel and acquire greater respect for the law."

2022 Florida D.A.R.E. Training:

June 6-17, 2022 Central Florida (Altamonte Springs, Seminole County)

July 18-29, 2022 South Florida (Fort Lauderdale, Broward County)

For additional information, contact FDLE Inspector David Bullard at (850) 410-7580.

2021 D.A.R.E. Graduates



Pictured are the graduates and instructors of Class #85

D.A.R.E. Class #85
July 12 - 23, 2021
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

D.A.R.E. Class #85 was another successful D.A.R.E. officer training 80-hour salary incentive class stressing the D.A.R.E. mission of “teaching students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives”. Its purpose is to fulfill a vision of “a world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance use and other dangerous behaviors”.

Only officers who are carefully vetted by leadership in their community law enforcement agencies are sent to DOT. They are further vetted by the mentors responsible for training new D.A.R.E. officers. Then, D.A.R.E. officers undergo a rigorous 80-hour training course conducted by mentors with a significant number of years of classroom experience as well as university-level educators. All officers are taught to deliver the curricula exactly as they are written, thereby achieving the goal of nearly 100 percent implementation fidelity. Over and above the 80-hours of course instruction, officers also undergo additional hours of practicing the lessons in small groups and in front of the entire group. Throughout the course, officers are assessed for readiness to deliver the curricula.

2021 D.A.R.E Officer Training – Fort Lauderdale, Florida



As pictured above, during the two-week course, students utilized the scripted curriculum to prepare and deliver presentations and participate in group activities. One student elected to get a tattoo of Daren the D.A.R.E. Lion as an ice-breaker when introducing the D.A.R.E. program to his future students.

2021 D.A.R.E. Class Awards



D.A.R.E. Faciliator Corporal Ken Vila (Collier County SO), middle; presented Deputy Bennett Van Horn (Lowndes County SO, Georgia), left; with the Joanne Chauncey Educational Award and presented Officer Marcos Diaz (Key Biscayne PD), right; with the Spark Plug Award.

During the 85th D.A.R.E. Officer Training graduation ceremony in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Deputy Bennett Van Horn (Lowndes County SO, Georgia) was presented with the Joanne Chauncey Educational Award. The Joanne Chauncey Educational Award was established by the Florida DARE training staff in memory of the first educational advisor assigned to Florida D.A.R.E. The award is presented to the student who demonstrates the most knowledge as it pertains to the DARE curriculum. The selection of Deputy Van Horn was a unanimous decision of the entire D.A.R.E. officer training staff.

Officer Marcos Diaz (Key Biscayne PD), was presented with the Spark Plug Award. The Spark Plug Award is awarded to the student who, as voted on by his/her fellow class members, demonstrates the most excitement and the ability to motivate others.

FDLE Capitol Police Trunk or Treat - October 27, 2021



Daren, the D.A.R.E. Lion, had the opportunity to hand out D.A.R.E. pencils, rulers and activity books to kids at a safe Halloween event sponsored by the FDLE Capitol Police at the Florida Capitol courtyard.

St. Petersburg Christmas Festival - December 8, 2021



Daren, the D.A.R.E. Lion, also handed out D.A.R.E. pencils, rulers and activity books to kids at the St. Petersburg Christmas Festival and Jingle Bell Run. Daren is pictured above with a member of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office K-9 Team, one of the many D.A.R.E. law enforcement partners.

2021 D.A.R.E. Training Team



2021 D.A.R.E. Training mentors pictured from left to right are: Lieutenant Anglie Hightower-Holmes (Gadsden County SO), Corporal Terry Allen (Retired, Lake County SO), Facilitator Corporal Ken Vila (Collier County SO), Lieutenant Fred Jones (Lake County SO), Educator Annette Castor (Collier County SO) and Deputy Lisa McCumber (Nassau County SO).

National D.A.R.E. Day Celebration

National D.A.R.E. Day is observed each year on the third Thursday in April, and serves to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the D.A.R.E. curricula and program. It also honors the students who graduate from D.A.R.E., D.A.R.E. officers, the schools and law enforcement agencies that host D.A.R.E. In 2022, National D.A.R.E. Day will be observed on Thursday, April 21, 2022.



Nassau County SO participated in the 2021 National D.A.R.E. Day activities at Bryceville Elementary School in Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Florida D.A.R.E. Program Statistics

Agency	Elem. Schools Taught	K-4 Students Taught	5th/6th Grade Classes Taught	5th/6th Grade Students Taught	Middle Schools Taught	7th Grade Classes Taught	7th Grade Students Taught	Certified D.A.R.E. Officers	N/A
Aventura PD	1		6	120					
Coconut Creek PD	4		0	0				5	
Collier County SO									
Coral Gables PD	1		3	97				2	
DeLand PD									
Doral PD	7		36	736				10	
Eatonville PD									
FL School for the Deaf & Blind PD									
Florida State University PD									
Franklin County SO	2		7	154				2	
Gadsden County SO	5	370	9		3	6		3	
Gilchrist County SO									
Gulf County SO	1							1	
Hallandale Beach PD									
Hendry County SO									
Highlands County SO									
Holmes County SO									
Indian River County SO									
Key Biscayne PD	3	600	13	310				2	
Lake County SO									
Madison County SO								2	
Margate PD									
Marion County SO	21	43,000	105	2,728				21	
Martin County SO									
Miami PD									
Miami Springs PD									
Miami-Dade PD	64		218	5,350				15	
Miccosukee PD									
Naples PD									
Nassau County SO	6		38	785					
New Smyrna Beach PD									

Ocala PD	9	726	48	905				8	
Ocoee PD									
Okeechobee County SO									
Orange City PD	2		10	219				1	
Orange Park PD									
Ormond Beach PD	9		30	800				2	
Oviedo PD									
Palmetto Bay PD	4		16	320					
Pinecrest PD									
Pinellas Park PD									
Punta Gorda PD									
Sebastian PD									
Sebring PD									
Sunny Isles Beach PD									
Sweetwater PD									
Taylor County SO									
Vero Beach PD								2	
Village of Palmetto Bay PD									
Village of Pinecrest PD									
Washington County SO	2	500						2	
West Miami PD	2		5	90					
Winter Haven PD									
2021 – 19 Reporting	143	45,196	544	12,614	3	6		78	

