

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 2018 was another amazing year. We conducted two D.A.R.E. Officer Trainings this year: the 82<sup>nd</sup> class hosted by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and the 83<sup>rd</sup> class hosted by the Martin County Sheriff's Office. Below are some additional 2018 highlights for the Florida D.A.R.E. program:

As in the previous year, Florida D.A.R.E. continued to connect with the community and help families in need. The students of class 82, mentors, and training staff had a special opportunity to visit a Nassau County family homeless shelter. The class volunteered to help serve meals and teach a D.A.R.E. lesson to the children at that facility. This is one reminder of how D.A.R.E. officers serve as an important link to the community, and we will continue to incorporate this important community outreach effort in the future.

The Florida D.A.R.E. Training Center was instrumental in coordinating the 2018 International D.A.R.E. Conference held at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, and D.A.R.E. America recognized us for our work during the conference.

This year also showed growth to the Florida D.A.R.E. Training Center with the addition of two new D.A.R.E. mentors. Nassau County Sheriff's Office Deputy Lisa McCumber joined us with over 10 years of experience. Lake County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Fred Jones joined the Florida D.A.R.E. Training Center with over 20 years of experience, half of that teaching D.A.R.E.

As we look forward to 2019, we are preparing for our next D.A.R.E Officer Training at the Marion County Sheriff's Office in July.

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 you are to be commended for your exemplary efforts.

**Inspector Jay Best** 

Florida D.A.R.E. Coordinator

### D.A.R.E. Program Overview

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) has been actively involved in a diversion and prevention program for drug abuse for juveniles. The FDLE selected the D.A.R.E. program in 1988. It is a statewide program 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 center 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, the 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 to 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.

Although it has undergone revisions over its 35 years, D.A.R.E. continues to be a law enforcement officer-led series of classroom lessons that teach 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.

## 2018 D.A.R.E. Graduates





## Making a Difference: Volunteers at Gracie's Kitchen





D.A.R.E. Class #82 graduates celebrated the conclusion of the training program by volunteering at Gracie's Kitchen. Gracie's Kitchen began in September 2009 when it served dinner to seven guests. Under the umbrella of The Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau County, and with the assistance of volunteer teams such as D.A.R.E. class participants, Gracie's Kitchen now serves over 3,000 dinners per month to single mothers, families, senior citizens, military veterans, the homeless and the working poor of the Yulee area.

The members of D.A.R.E. Class #82 donated their time to prepare and serve meals to those in need and taught a D.A.R.E. lesson to the children that came into Gracie's Kitchen. This exemplifies D.A.R.E.'s goal to connect with the community it serves.

### 2018 National D.A.R.E. Day Celebration



National D.A.R.E. Day is observed each year on the third Thursday in April. National D.A.R.E. Day 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, and the schools and law enforcement agencies that host D.A.R.E.

National D.A.R.E. Day was observed on Thursday, April 19, 2018, at the Florida Capitol to commemorate D.A.R.E.'s 35 years of service to students, parents, schools, and communities. The Winter Haven Police Department, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, Key Biscayne Police Department and the Miccosukee Police Department proudly showcased their D.A.R.E. vehicles.



#### New Team Members

#### **Deputy Lisa McCumber**

Deputy Lisa McCumber has been with the Nassau County Sheriff's Office since 2008 and has been teaching D.A.R.E. for eight years. Deputy McCumber now teaches over 20 5th grade classes each week throughout the school year. She is also the senior advisor for the Police Explorer unit, which involves law enforcement career training for individuals ages 13 to 21. Most of Deputy McCumber's Police Explorers have been through the D.A.R.E. program and assist with D.A.R.E. events and other community events.

Educating youth in Nassau County through the D.A.R.E. program continues to be very beneficial not only in the lives of youth, but also in the lives of their families and the community. Deputy McCumber considers it an honor to be part of a team that equips youth with skills that will help them be successful in everyday life.



#### **Sergeant Fred Jones**

Sergeant Fred Jones has been with the Lake County Sheriff's Office for 20 years. In 2007, he completed D.A.R.E. Officer Training, which he describes as both challenging and rewarding. Sgt. Jones considers his five years as a D.A.R.E. Officer the highlight of his career. In 2010, he was honored to receive the D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year award from the Florida D.A.R.E. Officers Association.

In 2012, the Lake County Sheriff's Office fell victim to budget cuts and had to discontinue the D.A.R.E. program. In 2017, newly elected Sheriff Peyton Grinnell followed through on a campaign promise and reinstated the D.A.R.E. program in Lake County.

Sgt. Jones is currently a supervisor in the Professional Standards Unit. He is also one of the Public Information Officers who works closely with the Training Bureau. Sgt. Jones has made time to once again teach the D.A.R.E. program. He says, "It was a no brainer; once a D.A.R.E. Officer, always a D.A.R.E. Officer."



## Agency Spotlight: Collier County Sheriff's Office



The Collier County Sheriff's Office has 53 certified deputies in their Youth Relations Division, of which 44 (83 percent) are D.A.R.E. certified. This number includes their Captain who has remained D.A.R.E. certified for over 20 years.

In 2018, Collier County deputies taught over 1,200 D.A.R.E. lessons to over 5,000 students. The D.A.R.E. message is always present with Collier County deputies as they participate in D.A.R.E. camp, Junior Deputy Camp, Junior Deputy Day at the fair, and SUMMERfest events. Collier County Sheriff's Office's Youth Relations Division has created programs to keep kids busy and having fun during each school break and continues to be a leader and an example in the D.A.R.E. community.

## Florida D.A.R.E. Program Statistics

Agency (*New 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
Aventura Police Department	1	550	6	120	0	0	0	1
Coconut Creek Police Department	3	500	30	750	1	0	0	5
Collier County Sheriff's Office	38	400	230	4,600	0	0	0	44
Coral Gables Police Department	2	0	6	175	0	0	0	2
DeLand Police Department	4	0	12	320	0	0	0	3
Doral Police Department*	9	0	46	1,400	0	0	0	11
Eatonville Police Department	Did Not Report							
FL School for the Deaf & Blind Police Department	1	70	1	12	0	0	0	1
Florida State University Police Department	Did Not Report							
Gadsden County Sheriff's Office	5	575	16	377	2	9	245	5
Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office	Did Not Report							
Gulf Breeze Police Department*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Gulf County Sheriff's Office	2	0	6	122	1	3	66	2
Hallandale Beach Police Department	1	0	10	198	0	0	0	2
Hendry County Sheriff's Office	6	0	27	478	0	0	0	4
Highlands County Sheriff's Office	10	0	58	1,009	0	0	0	6
Holmes Beach Police Department	1	220	2	50	0	0	0	2
Indian River County Sheriff's Office	13	0	52	1,116	0	0	0	1
Key Biscayne Police Department	3	250	13	300	0	0	0	1
Lake County Sheriff's Office*	5	0	9	2,200	0	0	0	6
Marco Island Police Department*	1	400	5	110	0	0	0	3
Margate Police Department	3	0	20	440	1	0	0	3
Marion County Sheriff's Office*	3	0	15	375	0	0	0	4
Martin County Sheriff's Office	15	0	15	1,700	0	0	0	3
Miami Police Department	2	50	2	44	1	2	40	4
Miami Springs Police Department*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

## Florida D.A.R.E. Program Statistics – continued

Agency	Elem.	K-4	5th/6th Grade	5th/6th Grade	Middle	7th Grade	7th Grade	Certified
(*New Agency)	Schools Taught	Students Taught	Classes Taught	Students Taught	Schools Taught	Classes Taught	Students Taught	D.A.R.E. Officers
Miami-Dade Police Department	97	0	376	8,453	0	0	0	14
Miccosukee Police Department				Did Not	Report			
Naples Police Department	4	0	14	300	0	0	0	4
Nassau County Sheriff's Office	6	40	39	854	0	0	0	4
New Smyrna Beach Police Department	3	700	11	240	1	13	320	1
Ocala Police Department	11	0	38	788	0	0	0	3
Ocoee Police Department	5	0	26	570	0	0	0	1
Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office	7	0	27	550	0	0	0	6
Orange City Police Department	2	85	11	218	1	0	0	3
Orange Park Police Department	Did Not Report							
Ormond Beach Police Department	9	0	31	1,200	0	0	0	3
Oviedo Police Department				Did Not	Report			
Pinecrest Police Department	2	0	12	300	0	0	0	2
Pinellas Park Police Department	4	200	14	324	0	0	0	2
Punta Gorda Police Department	1	0	6	140	0	0	0	1
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office	3	0	20	420	0	0	0	3
Sebastian Police Department	2	80	8	200	0	0	0	4
Sebring Police Department	2	0	7	144	0	0	0	1
Seminole Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sunny Isles Beach Police Department	Did Not Report							
Sweetwater Police Department	Did Not Report							
Vero Beach Police Department	3	0	9	220	1	1	25	3
Village of Palmetto Bay Police Department	2	0	19	465	0	0	0	2
West Miami Police Department	Did Not Report							
Winter Haven Police Department	10	200	33	740	0	0	0	1
2018 - 42 Reported	301	4,320	1,282	32,022	9	28	696	177

# 2018 Calendar Year Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	Total	\$151,046.86		
Expenses	Telephone Postage Printing Travel Supplies Total	\$293.44 \$3.66 \$22.37 \$23,611.83 \$288.48 \$24,219.78		
Contracted Services	Training Mail Service Total	\$13,479.06 \$1,979.78 \$15,458.84		
Total Expenses fo	\$190,725.48			

