



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

38 Santa Barbara County Residents Graduate from the Citizen's Academy

Santa Barbara – After eight weeks of interactive classes, 38 Santa Barbara County residents graduated this past Saturday, November 12, 2016, from the Citizen's Academy. The participants ranged from 18 to 82 years of age with different backgrounds, life experiences and perspectives. The group included students, business owners, an author, media members, activists and retirees, just to name a few. This is the largest Citizen's Academy class and the second time the Sheriff's Office has collaborated with UCSB, the UCSB Police Department and the City of Goleta to put on the free program.

The Citizen's Academy is designed to give the public an inside look at just some of what law enforcement does on a daily basis to keep its citizens safe. During the course of the program, the participants toured the jail, fired a handgun, took interactive classes in active shooter training, use of force, search and seizure law, building searches and arrest and control, just to name a few.

On graduation day, the participants finished their last two classes at the Sheriff's Training Bureau. They watched a K-9 demonstration followed by a presentation from Sheriff Bill Brown on the history of the Sheriff's Office. The group then received their certificates of completion at a graduation ceremony and celebratory BBQ attended by family and friends of the graduates, their instructors and past Citizen Academy graduates. At the ceremony, the crowd applauded each graduate as Sheriff Bill Brown and UCSB Police Chief Dustin Olson presented them with their certificate of completion.

Upon completion of the Citizen’s Academy, the graduates agreed it was an eye-opening experience and are glad they signed up. Ken Partch, a retired stockbroker said, “I wanted to know the story of the Sheriff’s Office and I was pleasantly surprised. Now I can help tell their story.”

UCSB student Sean Shuster said, “After going through this course I now see that law enforcement are not just robots walking around with a gun and a badge. They are meaningful members of the Santa Barbara community as a whole.”

Organizers plan to hold more Citizens’ Academies in different areas of Santa Barbara County in the near future to allow more people to participate. To find out when the next Citizen’s Academy is, sign up for Nixle alerts on our website at www.sbsheriff.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



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