

## **The Essex County Sheriff's Department Offers *Junior Leadership and Youth Academy***

The Essex County Sheriff's Department offers the Youth Academy for children 12 to 15 years of age and the Junior Leadership Academy for children eight to 11 years of age. The program is free of charge. This year, both the Youth Academy and the Junior Leadership Academy will be offered to the following communities:

Beverly	June 25-29
Salem	July 2-6
Haverhill	July 9-13
Lynn	July 16-20
Peabody	July 23-27
Lawrence	July 30-August 3
Masconomet	August 6-10
Gloucester	August 13-17
Methuen	August 20-24

The program will run Monday through Friday, 8am to 3pm. Children in the Youth Academy will enjoy a tour of the Essex County Correctional Facility, *Laser Quest*, Archery, the new ropes course at Essex Aggie, a fishing trip, a class with the Essex County District Attorney's Office, a K-9 demonstration, a cookout/graduation and more. Activities for the Junior Leadership Academy will include indoor rock climbing, *Curious Creatures*, a fishing trip, *Jump On In*, bowling, a K-9 demonstration, a cookout/graduation and more.

These academies are made possible through a grant from New England HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area). The New England HIDTA recognizes the importance in fostering a partnership among law enforcement professionals, educators and local treatment and prevention experts. Our thanks to the professionals at HIDTA for their commitment and generosity.

Statistics show that in America these young people are facing some of the most challenging decisions of their lives. The late President Ronald Reagan once said, "There is a flickering spark in each of us, which struck at just the right age will light up the rest of our lives."

Our children in Essex County are faced with peer pressure. Drug use, bullying and alcohol are just some of the issues with which they must deal. Children need tools to survive this often-strenuous atmosphere. These academies help children make the right decisions and do the right thing while promoting respect, team building and self confidence. The program is challenging yet fun.

Sheriff Frank G. Cousins, Jr. is a community leader, and he recognizes these challenges that the children of Essex County face. For this reason, Sheriff Cousins and his staff are providing a program that gets young people off the streets for a week, and allows them to experience a fun, educational and safe program.

The following agencies have partnered with us to provide terrific activities for the children in the academies:

Essex Agricultural School  
Essex County District Attorney's Office  
Essex County Sheriff's Department  
Middleton Police Department  
Middleton Fire Department  
Saugus Iron Works  
Jump On In

Danvers Fish & Game  
Salter Transportation  
Captain's Fishing Parties  
Laser Quest  
Middleton Police Department  
Gordon College  
Leo's Bowling

**For more information including an application, schedule and photos, go to the "Community Services/Youth Academy" section or the "Community Services/Junior Leadership Academy" section on this website.**

**[Essex County Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy Site](#)**

**[Essex County Sheriff's Junior Youth Leadership Academy Site](#)**