



Essex County Sheriff's Department Frank G. Cousins, Jr., Sheriff



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Mission Statement: *"To bring together youth, ages 8 to 15, from throughout Essex County to a safe environment that supports personal growth, appropriate risk taking, decision making and leadership development."*



The Youth Leadership Academy is a non-profit educational service that challenges children, from the ages of 8 to 15, both physically and mentally. Each program is designed to be within the capabilities of any participant who is in reasonably good health. The Junior Youth Leadership Academy serves ages 8 to 11 and the Senior Youth Leadership Academy serves ages 12 to 15. The Youth Leadership Academy is funded by the Essex County Sheriff's Department and has also through a grant from "HIDTA" High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas.

The Youth Leadership Academy is very successful in that it provides services for over 600 youths from Essex County. We have had encouraging feedback from parents regarding our program. From parents Deb and Steve, "...our son had a wonderful experience and thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the week. All of the adults involved were supportive and positive, acting as excellent role models for our children." From parent, Richard, "...the Junior Leadership Academy is a refreshing and valuable program for our community. Our son thoroughly enjoyed the many experiences and strong role models this program provided and has already asked to attend next year. We have already spread the word to other parents..."

All cities and towns in Essex County are welcomed and are listed by region. Each year many activities are planned for the Academy. Some of these are: Laser Quest, a rock wall, a ropes course, a fishing trip and many other fun games. There are also educational and safety programs designed and geared to each age group. Some of these are: a CPR course, Internet safety, and a Bullying course. A graduation and cookout is held on each Friday. Parents/guardians and families are encouraged to attend.

Our mission is to permit each applicant a chance to attend and make use of this educational and positive experience. It is our hope that each participant will take away with him/her the qualities of cooperation, team building and teamwork.

Applicants are placed on a first come first serve basis. Please check the website in February/March for new and current information regarding the Youth Leadership Academy 2014.

**For more information please visit the Sheriff's website www.mass.gov/essexsheriff/community
OR E-mail us at: ya@eccf.com**

