



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for a position as a Police Officer or Police Cadet?

When the department has a need to hire, we begin accepting applications. Applications are only accepted while the process is open. Generally, the process opens at least once per year.

Is there an age limit to apply to become an officer or Cadet?

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age to apply for Police Officer. Police Cadet applicants must be at least 18 years old.

Do you allow lateral transfers from other police departments?

We now offer a Lateral Entry program for certified officers! Applicants must be certified and have at least 3 years of continuous service in a law enforcement capacity (security, corrections, military police, etc. does not meet minimum qualifications). There is a 2.5% salary increase for each year of service, up to 5 years!

What type of training will I receive in the academy?

Our department and academy is nationally accredited. This ensures that our recruits receive the highest level of training and are best prepared to begin a career in law enforcement. Recruits can expect to receive training in firearms, driving, cultural diversity, crisis intervention, response to resistance, search and seizure, arrest procedures, criminal law and more.

How long is the police academy, and do you have to live there?

Our academy is approximately 22 weeks long. The schedule is generally Monday- Friday, during normal business hours and recruits return home each day.

Is there a Tuition Reimbursement Program?

Officers can earn up to \$3,000 per year for college tuition reimbursement. Officers with a Bachelor's degree receive a 7.5% salary increase.

Will I be paid while attending the police academy?

Recruits are paid employees with benefits upon beginning the academy.

Are officers assigned their own vehicles?

Officers are assigned a vehicle, and our liberal drive home policy allows officers to take their vehicle home within a 25 mile radius.

Can I ride-along with an officer?

KPD does offer a ride-along program. Some restrictions apply. Contact a recruiter for additional information.

What shifts do KPD officers work?

Patrol officers work a fixed day, evening, or night shift. Shifts are four days on and three days off. Work days and off days alternate every 28 days. This ensures officers have weekends off every other month.

Thank you for your interest in the Knoxville Police Department!

Our recruitment team can answer any additional questions.

Contact a recruiter today at policerecruiter@knoxvilletn.gov