

The American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program

Who:

Each year, two girl and two boy high school juniors from each of the Nebraska American Legion's 14 districts are chosen to participate in the Junior Law Cadet Program.

When:

Boys- June 22-23, 2026
Girls- June 24-25, 2026

Where:

Participants will stay at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island.

What You Do:

Explore and experience the various aspects of law enforcement such as firearms training and emergency vehicle operations. Learn the latest in law enforcement technology, tactical medicine, and K-9 handling. If you are considering a career in law enforcement, the Junior Law Cadet Program is for you! It will offer you an opportunity to gain valuable experience in a paramilitary setting, complete with making beds and cleaning.

How to Become a Junior Law Cadet:

Fillable application forms are available at <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/JRLaw.html>. The form must be signed by your local Legion Post. You may also contact the American Legion Programs Director, Eric Martin at his e-mail address: emartin@nebraskalegion.net. His office number is (402) 464-6338.

Junior Law Cadet participants will be selected by competitive evaluation based on interest, citizenship, evidence of self-discipline, and the ability to share their knowledge with others. Completed applications and an endorsement from your school principal or superintendent must be submitted to your local Post Commander by March 1, 2026.

Your local Post Commander will select a male and female applicant from each school and forward their selections to Department Headquarters for review. All eligible applicants will be notified by mail of the location, date, and time of their District selection interview.

Costs:

Each cadet chosen will be sponsored by the local American Legion Post/District, which will cover the costs. Cost per cadet is \$100, which covers insurance, food, T-shirt, cap, classroom materials and administrative expenses. The Nebraska State Patrol provides training, counselors, facilities and equipment as a public service.

Basic Requirements To Become A Junior Law Cadet:

1. High School Junior in good health and able to participate in physical activities.
2. Must possess a positive attitude and display respect for law enforcement.
3. Good grooming, average or above scholastic record, and be able to share the knowledge gained through the program with others.
4. Must possess a valid operator's license or learner's permit.
5. Must reside in the State of Nebraska.
6. Must have attended an accredited Nebraska High School or home school equivalent for the 2025-2026 school year.

Other Activities and Areas of Learning:

- Drone
- Aviation Support
- Gangs
- SWAT



The American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program provides young adults the chance to:

- Drive a State Patrol car.
- Learn to fire a service weapon under expert guidance.



- Have fun while working as a team, carrying out responsibilities, and achieving individual goals in a para-military setting.



- Interact with law enforcement officers and other young adults while learning the different roles agencies play in the criminal justice system, both here in Nebraska and across the United States.
- Study drug enforcement, proper methods of patrolling, K-9 handling, gangs and many issues facing law enforcement today.



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