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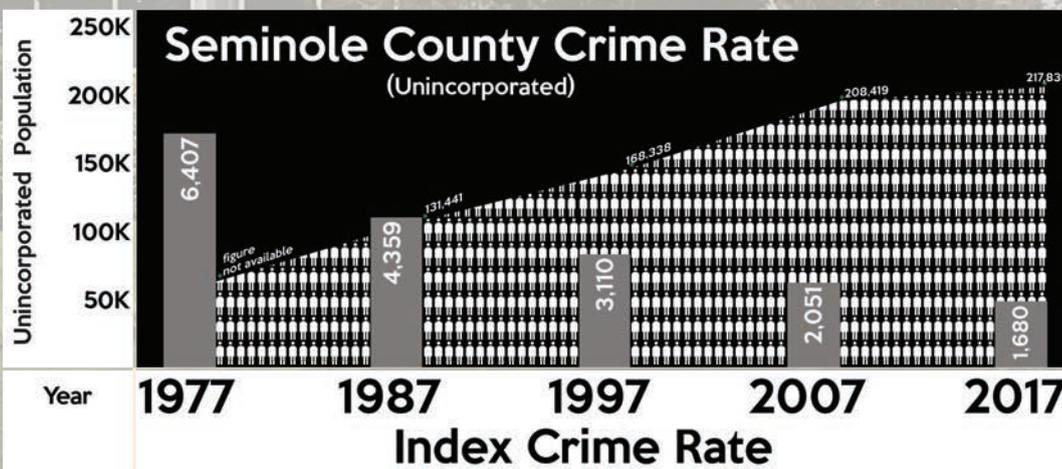
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SEMINOLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

A new beginning marks a year of firsts...



Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma is sworn in as the 10th Sheriff of Seminole County



\$1,863,223
Stolen Property Recovered

2017
6,592 Arrests

Message from the Sheriff

Dear Seminole County residents,

I'm pleased to present the 2017 Seminole County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. Last January, I was honored to take the Oath of Office to become the 10th Sheriff in the history of Seminole County. I am privileged to succeed Sheriff Donald Eslinger, who retired after diligently serving our community for 26 years.

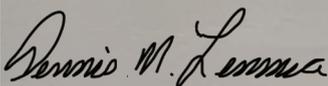
We are proud to report that our county once again has one of the lowest crime rates in Central Florida. Our agency's efforts, in collaboration with our community, business, and law enforcement partners, resulted in a 5.2% reduction in part 1 crimes. In 2017, the Sheriff's Office made 6,592 arrests and recovered nearly two million dollars in stolen property for victims. Between 1977 and 2017, despite the unincorporated population of our county more than tripling, the crime rate has dropped approximately 75%.

Our continued collaboration and strengthening of community partners resulted in many positive outcomes in 2017. Our agency came together with Seminole County officials to ensure we had a thorough response to Hurricane Irma throughout the county. In addition, our City-County Investigative Bureau collaborated with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations on a joint undercover operation which resulted in the dismantling of a drug trafficking organization responsible for bringing a significant amount of cocaine and heroin into Central Florida. We also partnered with Seminole County Public Schools and placed four comfort K-9s with school resource deputies to interact with students and staff to help create rapport and relieve anxiety and stress.

In 2017, we were again re-accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, earning "Excelsior" status for the seventh time. Obtaining accreditation reflects our continued commitment to meeting the highest standards for operations and service. This year we also outfitted our enforcement personnel with body-worn cameras to work in conjunction with deputy's in-car cameras to enhance our accountability and transparency efforts.

As we settle into 2018, the members of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office look forward to continued innovations, implementation of new technology, and partnerships with the community. We will continue to challenge the status quo and strive to make 2018, and the following years, safe and prosperous for our citizens.

Sincerely,



Dennis M. Lemma
Sheriff



Sheriff Lemma administers an oath to Sheriff's Office members

In January, Sheriff Dennis Lemma had the opportunity to administer an Oath of Office or Oath of Integrity to more than 1,300 enforcement, investigative, correctional, juvenile, and support staff members of the Sheriff's Office for the first time in the agency's history.





SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SEMINOLE COUNTY

HEALTH SERVICES
EOP 8

LAW
ENFORCEMENT



Hurricane Irma's impact on Seminole County

In September, our agency partnered with Seminole County officials to ensure we had a collaborative and thorough response to Hurricane Irma. Our staff worked around the clock to make sure we were prepared before, during, and after the storm. In preparation for the storm, inmate workers helped distribute 350,626 sandbags while our Elder Services Investigators and Citizens on Patrol volunteers assisted with approximately 800 special needs calls. After the storm, approximately 75% of the county was without power. Our calls for service included 113 reports of road flooding, 623 reports of trees in the road, and 202 reports of downed power lines.





The Sheriff's Office resp

In the wake of Hurricane Maria, one of the worst n
moved quickly to help family, friends, and neighbo
Florida House Representative Bob Cortes, we wer
Puerto Rico. Our law enforcement team, alongside p
the Sanford Police Department, brought essential
areas of the island. Upon the team's return, Repres
the Puerto Rican government thanking each deputy



Response to Hurricane Maria

Worst natural disasters ever to hit Puerto Rico, SCSO neighbors affected. Alongside our legislative partner, we were the first local agency to deploy deputies to assist partners from the Oviedo Police Department and essential items to citizens in several of the hardest-hit representative Cortes delivered a proclamation from deputy and officer for their service.



Largest drug bust in county history

At the end of 2017, deputies responded to a call for service from OnStar stating a stolen vehicle was at a specific address in Seminole County. Upon arrival, deputies located the vehicle backed into the driveway with a man in the driver's seat attempting to start it. Two additional men were standing outside the vehicle. All three males were taken into custody. While searching the stolen vehicle, deputies located approximately 50 pounds of marijuana in the trunk. City-County Investigative Bureau (CCIB) Agents then responded to the scene and executed a search warrant for the residence. During the search, an additional 380 pounds of marijuana, approximately \$43,000 in cash, and a stolen handgun were found in the home.



City County Investigative Bureau Seizures



Homicide charges for heroin dealer under new Florida law



Thanks to new legislation passed by the state legislature, SCSO leads the way in pursuing homicide cases against heroin dealers in the wake of overdose deaths. In an October case, Edward Paul Mitschele Jr. died from a mixture of heroin and fentanyl. Through further investigation, agents were able to establish a link between the victim and 29-year-old Nelson J. Larregui of Sanford. Initially, Larregui was jailed on drug charges. The investigation determined that Larregui was the individual who supplied Mitschele with the illegal drugs. Once it was confirmed by the Medical Examiner that Mitschele died as a result of a heroin and fentanyl overdose, investigators brought additional charges against Larregui. He was served with an arrest warrant for first-degree felony murder.

Drug trafficking organization dismantled

In a joint undercover operation, agents with the City-County Investigative Bureau (CCIB), the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) arrested nine individuals involved in a drug trafficking organization. The investigation began in July 2017 and determined that the suspects were trafficking narcotics. It is estimated that the organization was responsible for importing approximately 25–30 kilograms of cocaine and one kilogram of heroin into Central Florida per month.



TOTAL SEIZED

26 GRAMS OF SUSPECTED FENTANYL, OXYCODONE AND HYDROCODONE

1,400 GRAMS OF SUSPECTED HEROIN

4,026 GRAMS OF SUSPECTED COCAINE

176 GRAMS OF MARIJUANA

7 FIREARMS INCLUDING 2 ASSAULT RIFLES AND 5 HANDGUNS

\$500,000 IN ASSETS (CASH, VEHICLES, AND OTHER PROPERTY)

Re-Entry Symposium prepares inmates for successful return to the community

In October, the John E. Polk Correctional Facility hosted its first Re-Entry Symposium to prepare inmates for a successful re-entry back into the community upon their release. The Symposium was available for inmates with release dates within 30 days of the event. Participants had the opportunity to meet with various community care providers who offered advice and resources to improve their chances of a positive transition back into society and reduce their chances of re-offending.



Inmate Education



37,632	Classroom hours
799	Faith-based worship service
11,985	Bible class hours
37	GED & TABE testing sessions
203	Re-entry seminars

13,627
inmates
booked



Correctional Facility Greenhouse

\$9,291.68

TOTAL
AMOUNT SOLD



Created and implemented JailWeb

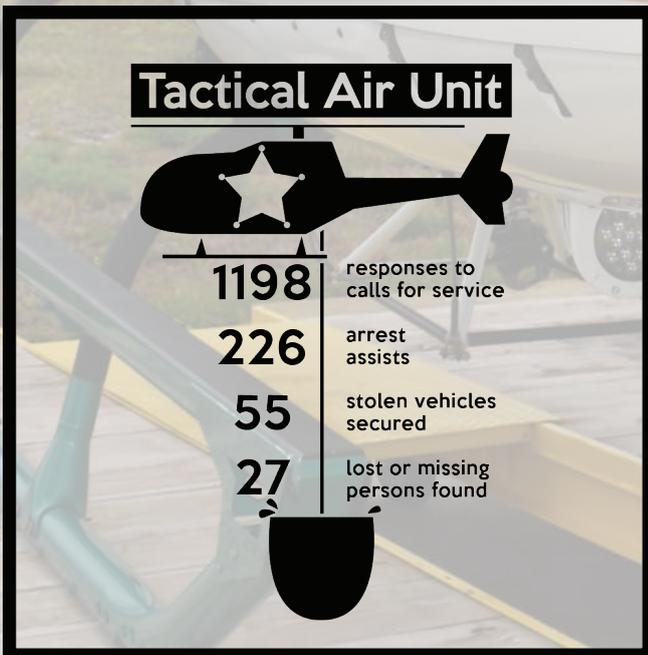
JailWeb is the electronic records management system that the John E. Polk Correctional Facility uses to track and manage all aspects of an inmate's incarceration and related jail operations. Written entirely in-house by Sheriff's Office developers, JailWeb provides efficiency, increased speed, enhanced usability to jail staff, and was built to interface with several other existing corrections technologies. JailWeb was used to book 1,146 persons in 2017.

Inmate Healthcare Services

13,330	Intake Medical/Mental Health Screenings
4,785	History and Physical Assessments
9,228	Nurse Sick Calls
4,440	Physician Encounters
6,769	Psychiatric and Mental Health Assessments
47	Baker Acts to the CSU

First Florida law enforcement agency to receive aviation accreditation

The SCSO Aviation Section is comprised of 28 full and part-time agency members who provide around-the-clock airborne assistance to all Seminole County law enforcement agencies via our two Airbus helicopters, Alert1 and Alert2. In 2017, we were presented with a prestigious national accreditation from the Airborne Law Enforcement Association's Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission. We are the only law enforcement helicopter operation in the State of Florida, and only one of 12 in the country, to hold this distinction.



Operation Box Disposal

To reduce the opportunity for post-holiday crime, the Sheriff's Office partnered with Waste Pro USA to implement "Operation Christmas Clean-up." Our Neighborhood Services Unit educated residents about the potential consequences of leaving boxes on the curb in front of their homes and the fact that it can signal what is inside to potential burglars. To make it convenient for residents to dispose of their gift boxes and packaging safely, cardboard only recycling bins were available at three locations throughout the county from December 23 – January 8.

Operation Save Christmas

In December, members of the General Assignment Investigative Unit held "Operation Save Christmas," a proactive effort to reduce retail theft and burglaries in the unincorporated areas of Seminole County. The operation took place over the ten days before Christmas with a focus on preventing and intercepting crime throughout the county. Twenty-eight suspects were arrested on a number of charges including organized retail theft, residential burglary, and possession of narcotics.

New Sheriff's Office Professional Development Center



Before



After

The new SCSO Professional Development Center opened in April 2017. It is a stand-alone facility that was built and completed in six months thanks to a team of dedicated agency members who recognized the need for an updated and expanded training space for professional development. The new building boasts 35,000 square feet of usable space and includes classrooms, a computer lab, a simulation room, a room for defensive tactics training, and a large community room wherein leadership, promotional, and member recognition events have been held.



u know?

Domestic Security Division



JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

792 Youths Housed

Prohibited Items



1,490 Prohibited items intercepted by deputies as they ensured safe passage for

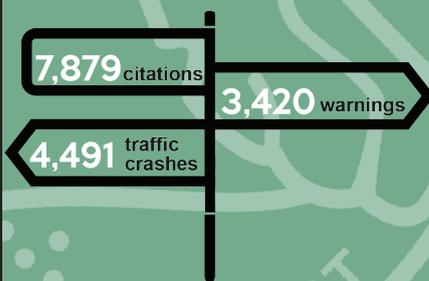
398,670

visitors to Seminole County's three courthouses

Juvenile Assessment Center



Traffic Safety Unit



City County Auto Theft Bureau



Stolen vehicles recovered

\$37,778

VALUE OF WORK for Seminole County taxpayers through the Sheriff's Work Ethic And Training (SWEAT)

Agency's first comfort dogs



Tootsie Roll



Cooper



MJ



Shiloh

In partnership with Seminole County Public Schools, we deployed a total of four comfort K-9s in local schools. These special rescue dogs are all graduates of eight weeks of basic obedience training, provided at no cost to us through the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Paws and Stripes program. Additionally, the Central Florida Zoo is donating their veterinary care. The objective is for dogs to interact with students and staff to help create rapport with law enforcement and to help relieve anxiety and stress. School counselors are finding that the presence of a comfort dog can also enable students to work through issues such as anger management, bullying tendencies, and other psycho/social problems.



New tracking and detection K-9s

The Sheriff's Office Digital Forensics Unit now has an innovative new asset to locate potentially crucial evidence in electronics and computer-related crimes. Her name is Siri; a two-year-old Chocolate Lab. Siri is the first electronic detection K-9 deployed full-time in the State of Florida. Two new scent-tracking K-9s, both Hanover Hounds named Hyde and Panzer, also joined the SCSO family assigned to Special Operations. All three dogs have become important investigative assets.



Panzer



Hyde



Siri



**FULL
SERVICE**

180

deployments

76

detection deployments

104

patrol deployments

46

apprehended subjects
without bite

2

apprehended subjects
with bite



BLOODHOUNDS

39 responses to requests for assistance
both in and out of Seminole County

53 deputy and detention deputy recruits participate in sponsorship program

As part of our continued efforts to aggressively recruit qualified individuals, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office launched two sponsorship programs. In May, 34 recruits were selected from the highly competitive application process to take part in our Deputy Sheriff Sponsorship Program. In August, 19 recruits were selected to participate in our Detention Deputy Sponsorship Program. Recruits attended the law enforcement or corrections academy at Seminole State College where they received extensive training on practices, policies and procedures. The sponsorship programs covered the tuition and expenses for those who completed the academy. Upon successful completion of the academy, recruits began full-time employment with our agency.





DRUG-FREE RED RIBBON



Calling all



Throughout the fall, the Sheriff's Office Ribbon Art Contest for 5th through 8th grade, charter, or home schools in Seminole County. A total of 39 schools participated by submitting their artwork. Community leaders selected 37 of the top 37 pieces of artwork displayed proudly on the back of deputies' patrol vehicles. The top three winners received prizes during the ceremony. The grand prize winner's artwork was displayed on the corner of US Highway 17-92 and State Road 160 through the end of February and garnered

RIBBON ART CONTEST



all artists!

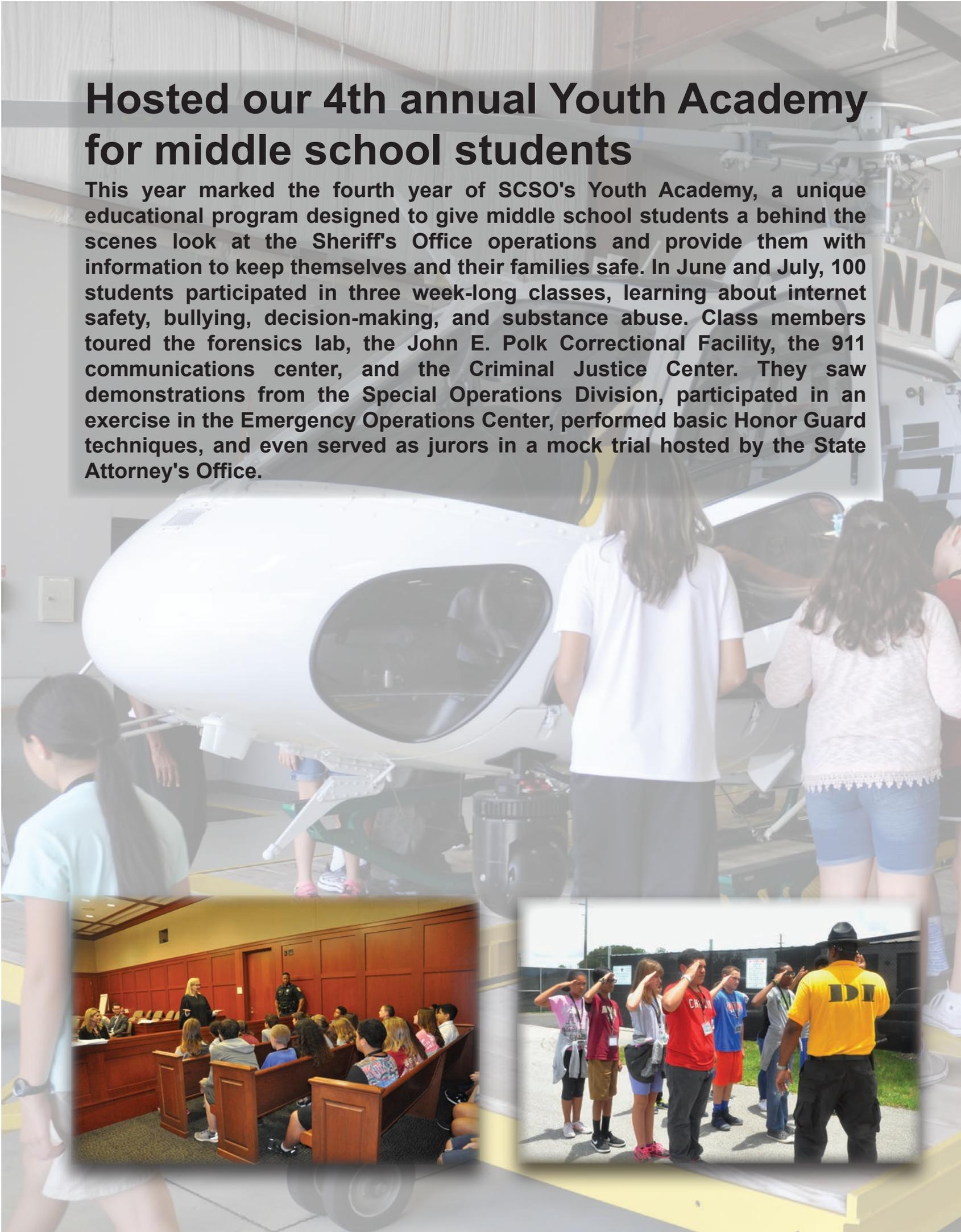


Office hosted the 2017 Drug-Free Red Ribbon Art Contest for 8th-grade students in public, private, and Seminole County. Students were invited to learn the importance of healthy, drug-free living. A total of 150 posters were submitted. A panel of judges selected the winners to have their artwork displayed on the back windows of our school resource vehicles. Three winners per grade, and the overall winners, were announced during the ceremony. Also, the overall winner's artwork was displayed on a digital billboard on the State Road 434 from the end of January to the end of February, garnering over 456,000 views.



Hosted our 4th annual Youth Academy for middle school students

This year marked the fourth year of SCSO's Youth Academy, a unique educational program designed to give middle school students a behind the scenes look at the Sheriff's Office operations and provide them with information to keep themselves and their families safe. In June and July, 100 students participated in three week-long classes, learning about internet safety, bullying, decision-making, and substance abuse. Class members toured the forensics lab, the John E. Polk Correctional Facility, the 911 communications center, and the Criminal Justice Center. They saw demonstrations from the Special Operations Division, participated in an exercise in the Emergency Operations Center, performed basic Honor Guard techniques, and even served as jurors in a mock trial hosted by the State Attorney's Office.





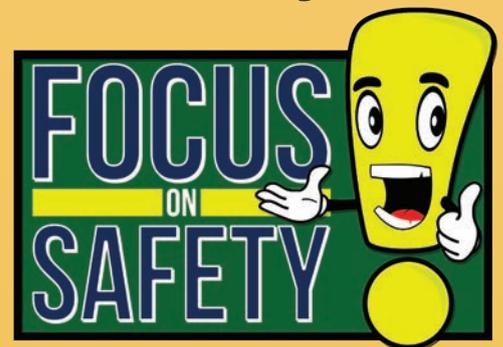
School Crossing Guard Program receives top in the state, again!

For the sixth time, the SCSO Crossing Guard Program was named best in the state in 2017, taking home top honors for their exceptional performance and proactive community outreach programs. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) officials recognized the program at an awards banquet held in February and also selected Sheriff's Office Crossing Guard Rob Beltzer as the recipient of the "Extra Mile Award" for his unique ability to communicate with the students he safely crosses at South Seminole Middle School.



Focus on Safety program validated by UCF

The Focus on Safety program is a curriculum designed to educate students on such topics as substance abuse, gang and violence awareness, bullying (including cyberbullying), and internet safety. First introduced in 2013, the goal of the program is to ensure our youth are prepared for the challenges they will face in middle school and beyond. In 2017, our School Safety Division collaborated with the University of Central Florida to conduct a validation of the program to ensure it meets the needs of our target audience (5th graders) and establishes quantitative and qualitative proof that the program accomplishes its intended requirements.



Rave Panic App available in all Seminole County schools

SCSO was the first agency in the state to start using the Rave Panic App during the 2017-2018 school year. The Rave Panic App can be used in all types of emergencies – from active shooters to fires and medical emergencies. Within seconds, the Rave Panic App communicates to first responders, on-site personnel, staff, security and assists in ensuring our schools are quickly initiating lockdowns, evacuations, or other emergency responses.

Attend our Community Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA) class



Get a firsthand look at the operations of the Sheriff's Office through our exciting 15-week educational academy. Taught by Sheriff's Office personnel, the academy includes presentations on topics such as: neighborhood policing, investigations, child protective services and forensics. Class participants also see demonstrations from the Special Operations Unit (SWAT, Range and Water, K9 and EOD), have the opportunity to fire Sheriff's Office weapons at the gun range, and drive a patrol car. The academy is offered to participants at no cost three times a year and is held once a week from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Hosted our 1st Safe Kids Day



Safe Kids Day is an annual awareness campaign of Safe Kids Worldwide that aims to celebrate kids, prevent injuries, and save lives. Seminole Safe Kids hosted its first annual event in May 2017 at the Seminole County Sports Complex in Sanford. It was free to the public and featured car seat, bicycle, and water safety displays.

Shop with the Sheriff

In July, members of our agency had a great time shopping with local children at our annual "Shop with the Sheriff" event. This year, approximately 270 children from the Midway Safe Harbor Center and area Boys and Girls Clubs were treated to breakfast and then headed to one of three Wal-Mart locations. Each child paired up with a Sheriff's deputy, employee, or volunteer and received a \$100 gift card to purchase back-to-school uniforms, clothes, and shoes. The goal of Shop with the Sheriff is to provide area youth in need the opportunity to establish positive relationships with law enforcement and to ensure they begin the academic school year with the resources and confidence necessary for their success. The event is supported by the Seminole County Sheriff's Office Community Foundation, a non-profit organization designed to assist the county's underserved and at-risk populations through education, prevention, and resources.



Christmas Village

The Sheriff's Office worked to make the holidays a little brighter for kids in our community by hosting our annual "Christmas Village" event to serve local children in need. In December, over 400 children and their families were treated to rides, games, live entertainment, food, and photos with Santa. Parents and guardians were able to visit "Santa's Toy Shop," to select gifts to give to their children on Christmas Day. SCSO holds Christmas Village for victims of abuse or neglect, children in foster care and other youth from underserved or high-risk neighborhoods. The event is supported by funds raised through SCSO's Community Foundation.



CONNECT WITH US

Safeguard your home

Want to reduce your risk of a break in? SCSO's certified crime prevention practitioners can visit your home and provide you with recommendations on how to better protect your residence. Our free, 45-minute home security assessments involve a review of entry and exit points, locks, lights and landscaping.

Going out of town? The House Watch program adds an extra layer of security to your home while you're away. At your request, deputies will check on your home, driving by to look for anything that might be unusual, and will walk around the property to ensure it is secured. Before you leave on your trip, contact us at 407-665-6650 to request the service.



Safely dispose of medication

Drug disposal boxes are available at each of the SCSO's offices. Drop off your unused, expired, or unwanted medication at any time. The service is free, and all medications (except for hypodermic needles or lancets) are accepted.



Secure your business

Modeled after Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch takes the "neighbors looking out for neighbors" concept to the commercial level, creating a partnership among businesses, law enforcement and others that represent business interests. Each business is provided with a Sheriff's Office decal that warns criminals that the business is part of an active watch community, and is used to contact business owners in case of an after-hours emergency.

SCSO also provides free on-site security assessments, providing businesses with site-specific safety tips on how to reduce the risk of robbery or burglary. SCSO also provides safety training for employees at no cost.



Take a women's self-defense class

Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange (SAFE) is a free personal awareness and crime prevention program designed to teach women basic safety and awareness skills. Instructors focus on crime prevention techniques and best practices for reducing the risk of being a victim. There is little physical activity required. Participants must be at least 13 years of age; those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**SELF-DEFENSE
AWARENESS
AND FAMILIARIZATION
EXCHANGE
SAFE**



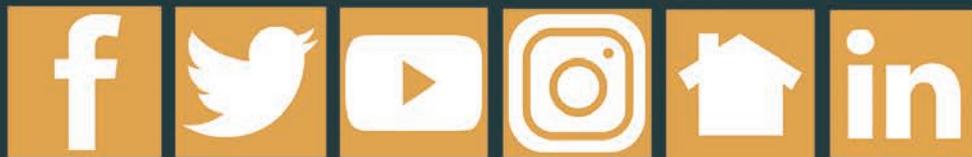
Get active with Neighborhood Watch

Join your Neighborhood Watch Program or take the lead on creating one for your community. The program promotes neighbors looking out for neighbors, and encourages citizens to work with law enforcement to prevent and report criminal activity. Call our Neighborhood Services Unit to get started.

Join Nextdoor.com

Nextdoor.com allows neighbors the opportunity to create a trusted, private neighborhood website where they can interact by asking questions, exchanging local advice, making recommendations, and discussing their community concerns. The Sheriff's Office often uses Nextdoor to update residents about crime trends in their neighborhoods, and share information on events and programs. Learn more and register at www.nextdoor.com.





**Want to receive news, safety and event information?
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www.seminolesheriff.org
and sign up for our newsletter, The Dispatcher.**