

ELKHART POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITIZENS ACADEMY

“Through Education Comes Empowerment”

The Elkhart Police Department, through its continued commitment to effective policing, has found that education is the most effective way of gaining understanding and support from the community. Through the implementation of the Citizens Police Academy, the Elkhart Police Department offers its citizens new insight as to how police officers perform their law enforcement duties. Additionally, we hope to enlighten the community as to the various problems we encounter while serving them.

The Citizens Academy is an eight (8) week program where citizens attend two and one half hour (2 ½) classes, one night each week. The classes are instructed by Elkhart Police Department personnel who have developed the curriculum, which includes, but is not limited to: CID Investigations, SWAT, K9, Defensive Tactics, Professional Standards, Crime Scene Investigations, and the Emergency 911 Communications Center. During the academy, participants will receive information and demonstrations on how the different divisions of the police department work. At the end of the academy, participants are encouraged to participate in a ride-along with an on-duty officer to see how everything they have learned can be applied.

It is not the intent of the Citizens Academy to recruit or guide individuals into a career of law enforcement. It is however, our intent to provide all attendees with basic information to increase their knowledge of how the police department operates on a daily basis. It is also our intent to educate, sometimes entertain, and, most importantly, bring the citizens of our community closer together. With this simple philosophy, we hope to foster a better understanding and establish a friendship between the law enforcement community and the citizens we serve.

The Citizens Academy is scheduled for Tuesday nights from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM starting on April 21, 2026 and going through June 9, 2026. Anyone interested in participating in this educational experience must complete an application and release, which is available on our website or at the front desk of the Elkhart Police Department (175 Waterfall Drive, Elkhart, Indiana 46516). Applications will be taken until April 10, 2026, and class size is limited to the first 20 approved applications.

Any questions or please contact Jessica McBrier at 574-389-4701 or Jessica.mcbrier@cityofelkhartin.gov.



ELKHART POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZENS ACADEMY 2026 APPLICATION

“Through Education Comes Empowerment”

Please type or print clearly

Name: _____
Last
First
Middle

Date of Birth: _____ - _____ - _____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Address: _____
Street
Apartment #

City
State
Zip Code

Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Area Code
Number

Please indicate if there are any accommodations you may require for special needs (wheelchair, hearing impairment, etc.) _____

Please indicate if you are attending on your own or representing a group, organization, etc.

Have you attended in the past and when (depending on amount of applications we may choose people that have not attended first): _____

Each applicant is required to attend no less than six (6) weeks of the eight (8) week academy to receive a certificate of completion. Class size is limited. Notifications of acceptance will be made by telephone or email approximately 5 days before the 2026 start date. Applications and release forms may be dropped off at the front desk of the Elkhart Police Department (175 Waterfall Drive) or emailed to Jessica.mcbrier@cityofelkhartin.gov

Question regarding the Citizens Academy may be directed to Jessica McBrier at Jessica.mcbrier@cityofelkhartin.gov or (574) 389-4701.

Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at various locations depending on the class being instructed.

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 10, 2026.



RECORDS CHECK
GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE

Applicant's Full legal name (Print)

Maiden/Additional Name (Print)

Maiden/Additional Name (Print)

Maiden/Additional Name (Print)

I hereby authorize any and all schools, Armed Services, employers, law enforcement agencies, or any other person or organization or agency to furnish to the Elkhart Police Department, or its designated agent(s), any and all information, opinions, or documents which may be requested; to allow the visual inspection and copy of all reports, photographs, or other documents.

I hereby waive any objection to the release of said information and grant the Elkhart Police Department, or its designated agent(s), any right I may have to said information.

I hereby authorize access to the public view of any social network accounts I may have. I understand that this information in itself will not disqualify me, but will provide the agency with additional information that will assist in a reasonable background investigation.

Date

Applicant's Signature (Full legal name)