



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How old do I have to be to join?

The Suffolk Constabulary Volunteer Police Cadets recruit young people between the ages of 13 and 16 years. Young People can remain Cadets within their Unit until their 18th birthday.

2. Do I have to have any qualifications or skills?

You don't need any experience, skills or qualifications to be a cadet. All we ask is that you commit to attending regularly, and strive to improve yourself and your local community.

3. Can I still join if I have special needs?

The scheme welcomes young people of all abilities. If a recruit has special requirements this will, wherever possible be accommodated, if necessary utilizing the support of a carer provided by the cadet.

4. Will you look into my family and background?

All potential cadets will be vetted. The purpose of this vetting is not to routinely preclude any young person from membership but rather to allow the cadet leaders to manage any potential risk that is highlighted.

5. I don't live in Suffolk can I still join?

We are only able to offer places to young people living in Suffolk. Each Unit is linked to a Local Policing Command (LPC) of which there are 12 in the County. Young people wishing to join should be resident within the LPC area. If you live outside of Suffolk please contact your local Police Force to see if they run a Cadet scheme. You can do this by calling in at your local police station or contacting the Force through its website.

6. Are there open days?

We currently do not offer open days. However, if you contact your local unit they can arrange for you to come along and observe one of the evenings so you can see what it is like.

7. Where is my local unit and how do I contact them?

The numbers of units across Suffolk is currently small but growing. You can contact your Local SNT for details. Visit www.onesuffolk.net and follow the safer Neighbourhood Team links or e-mail Cadetsinfo@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

8. I'm too young to join what else can I do?

Alternative options to Police Cadets are the Service Cadet Schemes - Army, Air, Sea, or other youth uniform organisations such as the Scouts, Guides, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, and St John Ambulance. There should be local provision in your area offering excellent activities and opportunities for young people. Additionally you may wish to contact your Local Authority about other youth provision in your area.

9. I'm too old to join what else can I do?

There are other volunteering opportunities within Suffolk Constabulary Including the Special Constabulary and Police Support Volunteers. See our web site for details www.suffolk.police.uk and follow the Join Our Team links.

10. How often do cadets meet?

Units meet once a week in the evening and are additionally involved in activities at weekends and during school holidays.

11. How much does it cost?

Even though the Cadets are a voluntary organisation we do ask cadets to give a small amount of money to the unit through weekly subscriptions. This will be used to cover some basic expenses in running the Cadets. However, if individuals have particular financial difficulties then a resolution can be discussed through with the local Leaders.

12. What equipment do I need?

There is no specific equipment you need in order to join the cadets. We provide a uniform to Cadets at no cost – however you will have to provide black shoes/boots. We recommend bringing a pen and pad to write down notes and to take in information when at Cadet meetings/events.

13. Can I just go along and see what it is like?

You will need to speak to the Leaders to arrange to go along.

14. Will it help me join the Police Force?

The Volunteer Police Cadets will provide you with an insight into policing; however, it will not specifically assist your application

15. Can I still join if I have been in trouble with the police?

In most cases the answer to this is yes. However, each case will be considered on merit.

16. What do Police Cadets do?

Police cadets, help and assist in the community by getting involved in stewarding in local events such as fairs, town shows, carnivals and other local events. We also assist in high profile events such as the Suffolk Show and Charity Events.

We also help the local Safer Neighbourhood Teams through leaflet drops, crime prevention initiatives, community safety events and street surveys.

Police Cadets are taught basic knowledge in a variety of policing activity. Law for example, definitions of robbery, burglary, theft, public order, Police and Criminal Evidence Act, along with arrest and custody procedures. Also an insight into how to deal with a Road Traffic Collision, first aid, officers safety, conflict management, the caution and stop & search powers.

We have a big interest in teamwork within the Cadets, which is why we also practice and perfect the discipline of drill. We take pride in our uniform. As cadets we are taught how to be disciplined and independent on how to clean and maintain high standards in uniform. We present ourselves professionally at events and cadet weekly meetings.

As cadets we also have the opportunity to visit different departments in the police service, such as Air Support Unit, Dog Section, Firearms unit, Roads Policing and Scenes of Crime unit.

17. What will I learn?

During your time as a Cadet you will be expected to follow a development programme.

Each Cadet will be provided with a development and training programme, containing achievable, time related tasks. Each cadet will be expected to complete the tasks as set out within the set period of time. This will include activities related to station duties; knowledge of localised community operations and selected tasks related to assisting local SNT staff.

Cadet Leaders will monitor each Cadet's development. Achievements will be rewarded by the presentation of certificates when agreed milestones have been attained.