

HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESERVE UNIT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What are the minimum standards to become a reserve deputy?

A. You must be a citizen of the United States, at least twenty-three years of age, possess a high school diploma or GED, possess a valid driver's license, be eligible to possess a firearm lawfully, pass a written exam, pass an oral interview, pass a physical fitness test, pass a background check, be certified as a law enforcement officer by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, and successfully complete a field training program.

Q. What does the physical fitness test involve?

A. The physical test is comprised of a mile-and-a-half run, pushups and sit-ups. The applicant must complete the run within 15 minutes, 28 seconds. The applicant must complete 22 pushups within 60 seconds. The applicant must complete 25 sit-ups within 60 seconds.

Q. If I am not certified as a law enforcement officer by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, can I still apply?

A. Yes, but if your application is accepted, you must agree to enter the next session of the Reserve Academy and successfully complete the training at your own expense. Failure to complete training is grounds for discharge from the Reserve Unit.

Q. Where is the Reserve Academy located?

A. The Reserve Academy is located at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Training Center in Fultondale, Alabama.

Q. What is the cost of training at the Reserve Academy?

A. Tuition is currently \$1,750 per student. Students are also responsible for the cost of their ammunition, transportation, lodging and meals.

Q. How long does it take to complete the Reserve Academy?

A. Reserve Academy training is conducted an average of two weekends per month over the course of fourteen months.

Q. If I graduate from the Reserve Academy, will I have to attend another academy if I get hired by a law enforcement agency in Alabama?

A. The Reserve Academy confers the same law enforcement officer certification as the academies that full-time law enforcement officers attend in Alabama. Unless the agency that hires you imposes requirements that exceed those established by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, you would not be required to attend another basic law enforcement academy in Alabama.

Q. What if I get hired by a law enforcement agency while I am attending the Reserve Academy?

A. If you get hired as a gainfully employed law enforcement officer while you are attending the Reserve Academy, the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission may require you to withdraw from the Reserve Academy and enroll in one of the regular academies.

Q. Are reserve deputies paid?

A. No. Reserve deputies of the Houston County Sheriff's Office are volunteers who serve without compensation.

Q. Do reserve deputies carry firearms?

A. Yes, reserve deputies of the Houston County Sheriff's Office carry firearms.

Q. Are reserve deputies authorized to make arrests and execute warrants?

A. Yes, reserve deputies of the Houston County Sheriff's Office are trained to the same standard as full-time deputies. Accordingly, reserve deputies are authorized to make arrests and execute warrants.

Q. How can I apply for membership in the Houston County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit?

A. Download the application from this website, complete the application fully, and return the completed application to the Houston County Sheriff's Office.

Q. How long will it take to process my application to the Reserve Unit?

A. The Reserve Unit begins to process applications near the end of each calendar year. The Reserve Academy only offers one academy session per year, and that session usually begins in March. The Reserve Unit begins to act on membership applications shortly before the application period for the Reserve Academy opens.

Q. Is the Reserve Unit right for me?

A. The Reserve Unit is best suited for people who want to volunteer in law enforcement while they simultaneously maintain a non-law enforcement career. The Reserve Unit is not particularly suited for people who want to enter law enforcement as a career. The time and expense required to obtain certification through the Reserve Academy are considerable. The best path to a career in law enforcement is to get hired by a law enforcement agency, attend the regular thirteen-week academy at your employer's expense, and get paid while you do it.