



Skagit Valley College

2405 East College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Dear Prospective Cadet,

Thank you for your interest in one of America's premier law enforcement training academies, geared for international success in natural resource-based occupations!

Established on the Mount Vernon campus in 1990, the Skagit Valley College Parks Law Enforcement Academy (PLEA) is one of seven accredited academies nationwide that meets the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's standards for commissioning of Seasonal Park Rangers for performance of Level II entry law enforcement roles for the National Park Service and other federal agencies. This comprehensive 728-hour program also meets the entry-level law enforcement requirements for full-time Park Ranger positions with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as many other local, state, federal and international police agencies.



Washington State's Criminal Justice Training Commission also recognizes this training as satisfying the requirement for Law Enforcement

Reserve Officer status in this state. The Academy also fulfills 30 credits within the college's 2-year Associate in Technical Arts degree in CJ—Park Services and Protection, and the Environmental Conservation Technology, Park Resources Management emphasis.

Students are also welcome to gain optional additional training in Wildland Firefighting and Emergency Medical Response (EMR). These classes will add qualifications for students when they begin to apply for competitive Federal and State Park Service employment. Tuition is paid separately for these classes and they are held outside of PLEA class timeframes.

During the academy's first week, Skagit Valley College's Mount Vernon campus will come alive with

uniformed Cadets like you who will be mastering the information critical to successful public service and protection of our world's outstanding resources. You will learn from subject matter experts in their specializations, as well as meeting and training with recognized professionals in the field. Over a period of approximately 17 weeks,

(Monday-Friday, some weekends, evenings and over holidays) your classroom and performance-based training will also take you to firearms and simulation ranges, a multi-skills driving course to learn emergency vehicle operation, and fitness and defensive tactics training facilities. Your training will culminate with scenario-based field exercises. Here you will put all

of your classroom hours and preparatory skills training to work in problem solving during mock scenes, as well as learning other skills for your career. Skills, techniques and knowledge obtained in this academy are directly applicable to law enforcement in other land management agencies (for a full list of areas of study, visit: <http://www.mysvc.skagit.edu/news.asp?pagenumber=2300>).

Please visit our website <https://www.mysvc.skagit.edu/directory.asp?pagenumber=398> for more information or feel free to contact the Parks Law Enforcement Academy by e-mail at Academy.Assistant@skagit.edu should you have specific questions or require clarification.

Do you desire a career in which you can apply your learning to contribute to the vitality of your community? Make a correct career choice today—select the Skagit Valley College Parks Law Enforcement Academy and be counted among the next Academy's graduates to serve your parks and resources systems with honor and distinction.



Cordially,
Rick Mossman, Academy Commander
Director of Public Safety Academies



Dear Prospective Cadet:

Thank you for your interest in the Parks Law Enforcement Academy. The academy's capacity is 36 Cadets. Acceptance to the academy is based on review and approval of all completed application packets. After 36 seats have been filled, a sequential wait list will be maintained due to attrition. For every person who has been accepted but drops out, someone from the wait list will advance. It has been our experience in the past that some number of accepted applicants will drop out in the few weeks before the start. Waitlisted applicants chosen to advance into the Academy will be notified up to two days after the academy start date. Waitlisted applicants who have not advanced into the current academy will be placed into the next available academy, unless otherwise advised by the applicant.

The Fall 2019 Academy is tentatively scheduled to begin August 19, 2019 concluding December 13, 2019. The Winter 2020 Academy is tentatively scheduled to begin January 6, 2020 concluding May 1, 2020.

All application materials and other academy information are available at <https://www.mysvc.skagit.edu/directory.asp?pagenumber=398>. Forms are accepted up to one (1) year prior to the Academy start date with the exception of the following: Medical Provider form, Background Check.

To qualify for a position as a law enforcement protection category Park Ranger, the following general information applies:

- Must be 21 years of age by no later than the date of academy graduation.
- Must meet all medical and mental requirements of law enforcement officers as prescribed by the hiring agency (see link <https://www.nps.gov/policy.DOrders/RM57medical.doc> for NPS Medical Standards).
- Must not have a disqualifying criminal history or accumulation of traffic violations, or a disqualifying history of adverse drug use (and must pass a drug analysis).
- Must display personality characteristics and traits that are consistent with social etiquette and effective public safety interaction.
- Must have attained a minimum of High School diploma or GED.

To be hired by the National Park Service (seasonal or permanent) you must meet Medical Standards and Physical Fitness Standards:

- Medical Standards: See link <https://www.nps.gov/policy.DOrders/RM57medical.doc>
- Physical Fitness Standards: See link <https://www.fletc.gov/physical-efficiency-battery-peb>

Agencies may have other specific qualifying requirements. In addition, your chances for success may be enhanced by any combination of the following:

- Education beyond the High School diploma/GED stated above.
- Military or police experience.
- Prior park-related experience.
- Certain certifications, such as Emergency Medical Responder, Wildland Firefighter Red Card, Power Boat Operation Certificate, SCUBA Diving Certification; Pilot's License; Search & Rescue training; etc.

This curriculum is certified by and for the National Park Service to qualify for seasonal law enforcement ranger positions. Many State Park Agencies including the State of Washington also accept the curriculum.



Washington State resident tuition and fees for the total academy (19-20 Academic year) will be **approximately** \$4710, and tuition/fees for out of state attendees **approximately** \$5,515 (total academy costs include a non-refundable \$1,550 program fee). These amounts will be broken up into two separate (quarterly) payments, and are determined through a process where the WA State Legislature assists the college's Board of Trustees in establishing tuition and fees. Tuition and fees are adjusted every July 1. The approximate totals above cover the cost of the following:

- Tuition for 30 quarter credits upon successful completion of the academy.
- All textbooks and handouts.
- Fees associated with the academy (student activity, technology, workout/weight room usage, parking).
- Consumable items (ammunition, targets, fuel for EVOC, Taser® cartridges, some criminalistics materials, etc.).

Your program fee is non-refundable and is paid in the first quarter.

The academy tuition and fees do not cover room and board, or transportation. Uniform item costs are approximately \$350.00. On-site housing is available on a first-come/first-serve basis at Campus View Village, only 100 yards from the academy classroom. To learn more about housing, please contact Resident Director of Campus View Village, at 360.416.7650.

Federal financial aid is approved for this program and may be available to you based on individual circumstances. I strongly urge you to begin this process early, as the federal FAFSA process takes some time to develop. In addition, the Academy and optional courses are traditionally covered under the Post-911 GI Bill and other similar military educational funding schemes. The VA Coordinators for the College are located at the Veterans' Affairs Center, Lewis Hall First Floor, or at 360.416.7804.

Optional courses at an additional cost may be offered and do not conflict with the academy schedule. These options are Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), and Wildland Firefighter. Information on how to register for those classes, if they are offered, are provided in the Cost and Financing section of the PLEA homepage.

A normal day begins at 8:00 am and will conclude at 5:00 pm, with 1.5 hours set aside on certain identified days for physical fitness workouts. Some days may operate with different schedules, i.e., 4:00 pm – midnight, pursuant to skills testing and performance requirements. Work may occur on some Saturdays and Sundays, but rarely.

Questions: Contact academy.assistant@skagit.edu.

I look forward to receipt of your application, and working with you to achieve your career entry goals. Thank you for your interest in the Parks Law Enforcement Academy!

Cordially,

Rick Mossman

Commander Rick Mossman,
Director of Public Safety Academies
Skagit Valley College

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails." --- Mark Twain