



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Youth programs are a part of the *ICP* strategy. Currently, the DeKalb County Police Department has a number of programs in place to motivate, encourage, educate and build relationships with the youngest members of our community. Those programs include the Junior Police Academy (Project Re-Direction), D.A.R.E, G.R.E.A.T, Mentoring Program and Explore Program.

D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)

This program is taught to Elementary and Middle School students during the calendar school year. The DARE Program teaches kids the importance of staying drug free and how to resist peer pressure to try drugs. This program is taught in collaboration with the DeKalb County School's Public Safety Department.

G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training)

This program is also taught to Elementary and Middle School students during the calendar school year. The G.R.E.A.T Program teaches kids about the dangers of joining a gang and how to resist pressure to join. This program is taught in collaboration with the Dekalb County School's Public Safety Department.

Mentor Program.

This program is a continuation of the department's summer program. Counselors and teachers select middle school students who they believe will benefit the most by having a positive influence in their lives. Students are assigned a mentor from the police department whom they meet with on a weekly basis throughout the school year. The goal of the program is to identify variables (i.e., gangs, drugs, media, music and other current issues) that may contribute to the student's negative behavior. With the aid of a mentor the student will learn to address those influences in a more positive manner.

Explorer Program

This Program is currently in the development stages.

The goal of the program is to educate youth between the ages of 14 to 21 who may have an interest in a law enforcement career. Explorers will learn in both classroom and field environments. The Explorer will be trained similar to an actual Police Recruit in the Academy would.

