

## Unit 2 Web Activity Officer, Officer!

### Introduction

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a police officer? What qualifications and training are required? What should be required? Everyone has a different idea of what they think should be required of the police officers in their areas. In this lesson, you will decide what your priorities are for police officers and then find out what your state requires of its state police.

### Directions

#### STEP 1:

First, think about what you think police officers do in their jobs. What skills, education, and characteristics are necessary to do those jobs? Using the checklists below, rank which qualifications are most important to you in a police officer. (You will be tempted to say that all are important, but you must rank them in order of importance.) Add any other qualifications at the end that you think should be included.

Education and Training	Skills	Personal Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High school graduate</li><li>• College graduate</li><li>• Took classes in psychology or peer mediation</li><li>• Took classes in criminology</li><li>• Other:</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can drive any vehicle well</li><li>• Can swim well</li><li>• First aid training</li><li>• Advanced medical training (CPR or emergency medicine)</li><li>• Good marksmanship (can shoot well)</li><li>• Other:</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In good physical shape</li><li>• Honest</li><li>• No criminal record</li><li>• Articulate (expresses him/herself well)</li><li>• Unbiased/no prejudices</li><li>• Other:</li></ul>

Education and Training	Skills	Personal Characteristics
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ranking</b></p> High school graduate College graduate Took classes in psychology or peer mediation Took classes in criminology Other:	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ranking</b></p> Can drive any vehicle well Can swim well Advanced medical training (CPR or emergency medicine) Good marksmanship (can shoot well) Other:	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ranking</b></p> In good physical shape Honest Articulate (expresses him/herself well) No criminal record Unbiased/no prejudices Other:

**STEP 2:**

Now that you know what you think is important in a police officer, click on the link to your state below and navigate through the state police Web site to discover what your state requires of its police officers.

**\*\*Note:** These are the Web sites for the state police. You may also follow links or do a separate search for your local police.

As you navigate the Web site, answer the following questions:

1. Do applicants have to be U.S. citizens?
2. What are the educational requirements?
3. What training is required?
4. What is the minimum age?
5. What are the physical requirements?
6. What other education, skills, or characteristics are required to be a state trooper in your state? Are there special steps involved in applying for the job (such as interviews, fitness tests, written tests, polygraphs, etc.)?
7. Are there ongoing requirements after the officer is hired, such as continuing education or training?

## State Troopers Directory

<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Massachusetts</u>	<u>New York</u>	<u>Texas</u>
<u>Alaska</u>	<u>Hawaii</u>	<u>Michigan</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	<u>Utah</u>
<u>Arizona</u>	<u>Idaho</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>North Dakota</u>	<u>Vermont</u>
<u>Arkansas</u>	<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>Virginia</u>
<u>California</u>	<u>Indiana</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>Washington</u>
<u>Colorado</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>Montana</u>	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>West Virginia</u>
<u>Connecticut</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>Nebraska</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>
<u>Delaware</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	<u>Nevada</u>	<u>Rhode Island</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>
<u>District of Columbia</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	<u>New Hampshire</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	
	<u>Maine</u>	<u>New Jersey</u>	<u>South Dakota</u>	
<u>Florida</u>	<u>Maryland</u>	<u>New Mexico</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>	

### STEP 3:

After you have determined the qualifications to be a police officer in your state, your teacher may ask you to compare them to the qualifications in other states. When you have done that, reflect on how your priorities compared to those in each state that you researched.

### STEP 4:

Write a letter to your governor, expressing your opinion about what the qualifications SHOULD be for state police officers. If you think the requirements are inadequate, you must tell the governor what should be added, and why. If you think the requirements are appropriate the way they are, you must explain why you think they are sufficient. (If your teacher assigns you to mail the letter, it should be typed, in appropriate formal letter format.)

## Teacher lesson plan

### Officer, Officer!

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a police officer? What qualifications and training are required? What should be required? Everyone has a different idea of what they think should be required of the police officers in their areas. In this lesson, you will decide what your priorities are for police officers and then find out what your state requires of its state police.

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Education and Training	Skills	Personal Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• high school graduate</li><li>• college graduate</li><li>• took classes in psychology or peer mediation</li><li>• took classes in criminology</li><li>• other:</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• can drive any vehicle well</li><li>• can swim well</li><li>• first aid training</li><li>• advanced medical training (CPR or emergency medicine)</li><li>• good marksmanship (can shoot well)</li><li>• other:</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in good physical shape</li><li>• honest</li><li>• no criminal record</li><li>• articulate (expresses him/herself well)</li><li>• unbiased / no prejudices</li><li>• other:</li></ul>

Now that you know what you think is important in a police officer, click on your state below and navigate through the state police Website to discover what your state requires of its police officers. Note: these are the Websites for the state police. You may also follow links or do a separate search for your local police.

As you navigate the Website, answer the following questions:

8. Do applicants have to be U.S. citizens?

9. What are the educational requirements?
10. What training is required?
11. What is the minimum age?
12. What are the physical requirements?
13. What other education, skills, or characteristics are required to be a state trooper in your state? Are there special steps involved in applying for the job (such as interviews, fitness tests, written tests, polygraphs, etc.)?
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Then write a letter to your governor, expressing your opinion about what the qualifications SHOULD be for state police officers. If you think the requirements are inadequate, you must tell the governor what should be added, and why. If you think the requirements are appropriate the way they are, you must explain why you think they are sufficient. (If your teacher assigns you to mail the letter, it should be typed, in appropriate formal letter format.)