

Women's Issues

Being a police officer is exciting!

As police officers, we patrol the city's streets and neighborhoods. We are a very diverse agency in that we perform many different duties ranging from patrolling the streets to protecting the citizens. Some of our special assignments include, but are not limited to, drug interdiction, auto theft, accident investigation, DWI enforcement, motorcycle patrol, bicycle patrol, tactical call-outs and honor guard.

For many years, policing was considered to be a "man's job", and women were not permitted to work as police officers. However, over the years more and more women have joined the ranks of what was once a male only workforce. Women have discovered that there is more to policing than what the movies and televisions portray, and that they have much to contribute to the profession. Women, in general, receive fewer complaints than their male counterparts. And often times, women are able to bring a different view and approach to calm potentially volatile situations.

We have included several frequently asked questions that our recruiters receive to help potential candidates in their decision to become police officers. If you have additional questions, please contact our recruiter at 469-658-3000.

Questions and Answers from a Woman's Perspective

Is being an officer dangerous?

As with many other careers, being a police officer can sometimes be dangerous. Officers provide public safety services every day to those who are in need of assistance, whether in a hazardous situation or a controlled environment. In any event, the DeSoto Police Department is committed to their officers and provides the best training and equipment available. This helps to ensure the duties of officers are carried out in the safest way possible, both for the public as well as the officers.

I've heard the physical training portion of the academy is difficult.

Women in general do have some problems with upper body strength more than in any other area of physical training. However, following an exercise program that includes push-ups and free weights for the chest and shoulder area will help properly prepare you for the Academy. During the Academy, running is the primary form of aerobic workout.

Set a goal for yourself in preparation for this portion of the Academy. Start out slowly until you build to a minimum of two to three miles in 20-30 minutes. That averages out to roughly a nine to ten minute mile. These preparations will enhance your performance at the Academy and help build your confidence in your ability to become a police officer.

Someday I would like to start a family. How does that fit in with my career as a police officer?

Many women in policing have started families, and have found that the Department is very supportive of this very personal decision. The DeSoto Police Department recognizes the Family Medical Leave Act and can grant up to 13 weeks off with full pay, contingent upon your accumulated sick and compensatory time.

I have small children and attending the Academy for approximately 6 months would be an incredible hardship.

Women who make the very brave decision to attend the Academy while they have small children at home so do for the long term security and benefits the DeSoto Police Department provides for all families. There is no denying the fact that for a single parent, attending the Academy presents some challenges. However, many single parents have done this with careful planning and the support of their family and close friends. Keep in mind; the rewards after you graduate are well worth the initial struggle.

Where will I be working after graduating from the Academy?

Placements are based on the needs of the Department. Initially, graduates are required to work in the patrol division. After your probationary period is completed, you may be eligible to apply for an opening in any specialty unit where an opening arises.

How are women accepted in law enforcement?

Our society has come a long way in its thinking. Now more than ever female law enforcement officers are respected by their peers as well as the public for their positive attitudes and calming effect they have on potentially volatile situations. In the law enforcement community, we have come to realize that physical strength is not necessarily the most important attribute when dealing with potentially volatile situations.

In the DeSoto Police Department, women have been working side-by-side with their male counterparts for many years. During this time, women have become an integral part of every aspect of the department, from patrolling the neighborhoods and protecting the citizens to commanding operations.

Why should I choose the DeSoto Police Department?

There are many good reasons for choosing the DeSoto Police Department, such as the many diverse jobs and promotional opportunities. Also, unlike many departments where new officers must spend the first several years of their careers working in a jail environment or in an administrative job, with the DeSoto Police Department as soon as you have successfully completed the Academy, you will be doing what you were trained to do...providing safety and assistance to the public and enforcing the law!

You also have the ability to transfer to other areas within the department. In other words, you won't have to spend your whole career working in the same position unless you want to. So you see, our department is very unique with its very diverse opportunities!

If you have questions or would like to communicate directly with a female DeSoto Police Officer, please call 469-658-3000.