Can Women be Law Enforcement Officers?

“Can Women be Law Enforcement Officers? YES!”

Police patrol officers keep order in their communities and make sure that people follow laws. Police patrol officers protect people and property. They patrol areas by walking or driving through them. Some officers ride horses or bikes. While on patrol, officers watch for signs of criminal activity and talk to residents and business people. They try to build relationships with people in their community. Officers are also called to respond to accidents, crimes in progress, fights, and other events. Officers evaluate the information they receive and determine the best way to respond.

Preparation

To work in Law Enforcement, you must:

- complete at least a high school diploma or GED;
- meet your state’s minimum age requirement;
- pass a physical exam and background check;
- complete police academy training;
- CSI offers a Technical & Associate of Applied Science degrees in Law Enforcement.
- complete Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy (POST).
- pass a written exam.

Idaho Employment

2935 jobs—Very Large occupation
29%—annual growth
161—very high annual openings

Nationally, women make up 12.8% of the labor force. Source: US Dept of Labor (2006)

Job Outlook

People are more security-conscious than in the past, and are more concerned about drug-related crimes. Thus, people are more willing to pay for a larger police force. At the state and local levels, growth is likely to continue even though budgets may be small. Because the size of budgets varies from year to year, so does the number of law enforcement jobs. Layoffs are rare because the number of retirements each year is usually enough to cover any personnel cuts. Trained officers who do lose their jobs because of budget cuts usually have little difficulty finding jobs with other agencies. The turnover rate for police officers is among the lowest of all occupations.

Regardless of Gender Law Enforcement Officers need to:

- Keep the public safe.
- Arrest people who break laws.
- Prepare reports about accidents and arrests.
- Review facts to determine if criminal acts were committed.
- Give first aid to people who are injured.
- Testify in court to present evidence.
- Evaluate requests for service to determine how to respond.
- Patrol areas on foot, horse, bike, or vehicle.
- Investigate suspicious activities and safety hazards.
- Investigate traffic accidents to determine which drivers were at fault.
- Prepare and maintain records about prisoners.
- Photograph or draw diagrams of crime or accident scenes.
- Interview witnesses to gather more information.
- Monitor traffic to make sure motorists obey laws.
- Communicate with emergency dispatchers.
- Write citations or tickets for drivers who violate traffic laws.
- Direct traffic flow and re-route traffic in case of emergencies.
- Assist the public with solving problems and fighting crime.
- Provide information on road conditions to the public.
- Inspect businesses to make sure they are following rules.

Idaho Wages

Hourly Range $13.17 to $28.14 Median Wage $19.78

Police patrol officers keep order in their communities and make sure that people follow laws. Police patrol officers protect people and property. They patrol areas by walking or driving through them. Some officers ride horses or bikes. While on patrol, officers watch for signs of criminal activity and talk to residents and business people. They try to build relationships with people in their community. Officers are also called to respond to accidents, crimes in progress, fights, and other events. Officers evaluate the information they receive and determine the best way to respond.

Regards,

Kathy Eley, Detective, Hastings, NB