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 720-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.

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, 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 in one of the premier state parks in the Pacific Northwest, Deception Pass on Whidbey Island. 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.

Enclosed please find a program brochure as well as other materials that will assist you. Please feel free to contact the Parks Law Enforcement Academy Commander, Bill Overby by e-mail at bill.overby@skagit.edu, should you have questions or require clarification.

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,

Bill Overby
Bill Overby, Academy Commander