Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Parks Law Enforcement Academy (PLEA). This program is cooperatively operated between the federal, state, county, and local park systems, and Skagit Valley College. Its purpose is to provide trained candidates for law enforcement positions meeting the hiring standards of the respective park system, and standards set forth by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission for Law Enforcement Reserve Officer commissioning.

Priority for admission is given to those applicants who best fit the agency hiring requirements. All candidates are reviewed based on the following priorities:

1. Minimum 21 years old (or turn 21 by the end of the Academy)
2. Valid Driver’s License (without restricted driving privileges)
3. No felony convictions
4. No convictions for domestic violence or violation of orders of protection
5. No disqualifying history of unlawful drug use, possession, sales, transportation;
6. No disqualifying record of driving conduct, or adverse documented incidents involving moral turpitude
7. No restrictive or disqualifying medical history or condition, including mental illness, mood disorders, or suicidal tendencies
8. Educational background
9. Related work experience

The enclosed application materials are designed to establish eligibility for the program. Prompt attention in completing all materials will assist applicants in being considered for placement in the current academy. Failure to thoroughly complete and expedite the application materials may result in the applicant’s rejection from further consideration for the program.

Applicants must complete the enclosed Criminal Offense Checklist that provides current personal background information. A National-level criminal background check will also be performed. It is possible an applicant may receive conditional program acceptance, however, should the background investigation return a finding of criminal history, the
applicant will be dropped from the program. Refunds are processed according to Skagit Valley College policy.

Application review will take place upon receipt of a completed total application package. Those applicants who best meet the program requirements/priorities will be chosen to attend the PLEA program. Only thirty-six (36) positions in each academy are available for qualified students on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. Those qualified applicants over the 36 will comprise a stand-by list for use in the event of a cancellation.

Accepted applicants are notified by mail in time to complete the final steps of program registration and preparation. You will be notified of program fees at that time.

Be certain you meet the National Park Service Medical Standards before making application and an investment of time and money. These may be found on the Internet at www.nps.gov/policy/DOrcers/RM57medical.doc. Pay special attention to the areas of your medical fitness to which you may already know a pre-existing condition that may disqualify you—hearing and color blindness, an inability to focus on tasks, or severe cardiovascular conditions as examples.

Further, begin a physical conditioning program now in preparation for the class, as a rigorous training regimen is a component of this Academy and a tested physical fitness battery is required for certification. It is further advisable to schedule a medical physical exam sometime within 90 days of the start of your intended academy as it is required for admission into this program.

For questions regarding program admission, please call Tee Davis Overby at (360) 416-7638, Monday through Thursday between 1300 and 2100 hours.

Sincerely,

William M. Overby
Bill Overby, Chair and Commander
Department of Criminal Justice and Professional Academies
Skagit Valley College