



Skagit Valley College

PARK RANGER LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

Thank you for your interest in one of America's premier law enforcement training academies geared for success in national resource-based law enforcement occupations. Do 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 (SVC) Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy (PRLEA) and be counted among the next academy's graduates to serve your parks and resource systems with honor and distinction.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

Established on the Mount Vernon, WA campus in 1990, the SVC PRLEA is one of six accredited academies nationwide that meets the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's standards for commissioning of seasonal Park Rangers for Level II entry law enforcement roles for the National Park Service (NPS) and other federal agencies. In addition, the academy meets the entry-level law enforcement requirements for full-time law enforcement positions with any Washington State law enforcement agency for one year from your graduation date, as well as many other state, county, and city park agencies. Washington State's Criminal Justice Training Commission, also, recognizes the academy training as satisfying the requirement for Law Enforcement Reserve Officer status.

During the academy's first week, the SVC campus will come alive with uniformed Cadets. You will learn from subject matter experts, in their specifications, as well as meeting and training with recognized professionals in their fields. Over a period of 17 weeks, your classroom and performance-based training will take you to firearms and simulation training, a multi-skill driving course to learn emergency vehicle operations, along with fitness and defensive tactics training facilities. Your training will culminate with scenario-based field exercises. Here you will put all of your classroom hours and preparatory skills training to work in problem solving during mock law enforcement scenarios.

Students are welcome to gain optional additional training in Wildland Firefighting and Emergency Medical Response courses. These classes will add additional qualifications for Cadets when applying for competitive employment opportunities. Tuition is paid separately for these courses and they are held outside of the PRLEA training schedule. Agencies are increasingly looking for EMR or EMT certification from applicants. It is in your best interest to begin EMR or EMT training prior to academy, if applicable.

Please visit our website at [Skagit.edu](https://www.skagit.edu/academics/areas-of-study/public-service-social-science/park-ranger-law-enforcement-academy/) for additional information and application documents.
<https://www.skagit.edu/academics/areas-of-study/public-service-social-science/park-ranger-law-enforcement-academy/>

Or feel free to contact the academy by email should you have specific questions or require clarification
academy.assistent@skagit.edu
academy.commander@skagit.edu

HOW TO APPLY

Application to the academy is a two-step process:

1. Apply to SVC – At Skagit.edu apply online for admission to SVC
2. Apply to the Academy – See PRLEA Applications & Forms webpage below which contains a checklist of documents that need to be submitted for approval into the academy.

ONE ACADEMY A YESR

The SVC PRLEA operates one academy yearly from January to May.

UPCOMING ACADEMIES:

Spring 2026 scheduled for January 05, 2026 graduation May 02, 2026

****APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UP TO A YEAR IN ADVANCE****

****APPLY NOW****

****IF NOT YOU, WHO??****

ACADEMY OPERATIONS

The academy is a comprehensive 750+ hour program over 17 weeks. Cadets attend Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1700 (8:00am to 5:00pm). In addition, some evenings and weekend training is required. The academy's capacity is 30 Cadets. To apply for the academy, please visit our website link above, complete the application packet forms and submit for approval. Acceptance to the academy is based on review and approval of all completed application documents by the Commander.

Washington State resident tuition and fees for the total academy (2024-2025 academic year) will be **approximately** \$5600.00. Out of state attendee's tuition and fees for the total academy (2024-2025) academic year will be **approximately** \$6900.00. These amounts may not include all taxes and fees and are **ONLY AN ESTIMATION**. Academy tuition is paid over two separate quarterly payments. Tuition and fees are adjusted annually on July 01. Tuition is determined through a process where the Washington State Legislature assists the college's Board of Trustees in establishing tuition costs and fees.

The above **ESTIMATES** include:

- Tuition for 30 quarter credits upon successful completion of the academy
- All textbooks and handouts
- Program fee of \$1750.00
- Training consumable items (ammo, targets, fuel, etc...)

The academy tuition and fees do not cover room and board or transportation. Uniform items cost approximately \$350.00 in addition to tuition.

The academy is covered by a variety of financial aid opportunities. Please contact SVC Financial Aid to request assistance at <https://www.skagit.edu/financial-aid/> . If you qualify for the GI Bill, please contact the SVC Veterans Education department at <https://www.skagit.edu/student-resources/veterans-outreach/> . Also, SVC offers on-site housing. In addition, the academy has a housing list of local landlords that rent only to academy cadets.

QUALIFICATIONS & HIRING

TO QUALIFY for a position as a law enforcement protection category Park Ranger, the following general information applies:

- Must be a minimum of 21 years of age by academy graduation date
- Must meet all medical and mental requirements of law enforcement officers as prescribed by the hiring agency
- Must not have a disqualifying criminal history or accumulation of traffic violations, or a disqualifying history of adverse drug use (be able to pass a drug urine analysis)
- Must display personality characteristics and traits that are consistent with social etiquette and effective public safety interaction.
- Must have attained a minimum of high school diploma or GED

TO BE HIRED by the NPS (seasonal or permanent) you must meet Medical Standards and Physical Fitness Standards.

START APPLYING NOW. Prior to attending academy, applicants should create a USAjobs.gov account and begin applying for NPS seasonal jobs. Please note when applying, approved applicants are able to say they will be attending academy and graduating prior to any potential job hire date.

I look forward to receipt of your application packet and working with you to achieve your career goals. Thank you for your interest in the Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy.

Cordially,

Rick Mossman

Commander / Director of Public Safety Academies
Skagit Valley College

