

Ever since I can remember seeing police officers in my community, I have always had a lot of respect for them. When I was young, I couldn't stop watching all of the police shows on television and thought it was an exciting job. In my mind, police officers were superheroes for doing the dangerous jobs they do. Although I wanted to become a police officer, I knew they didn't fear anything, so I didn't know if I could do the job. Now that I am older, I realize that police officers are superhuman and their dedication to the community is what helps them take the risks they take and put their lives on the line.

I have seen the dedication that a lot of officers have since I have been a police explorer for almost two years. The police explorer program is run by very dedicated police officers who spend a great deal of their time teaching young people who are interested in law enforcement. A lot of officers have shown me how they handle the most dangerous situations that they are often faced with. I have met officers from other parts of Maryland and other states who have taught me what being a police officer is all about. One of the things that surprised me when I joined the explorers was the hectic schedules they have and the shifts they work.

There are many other teenagers who do not seem to have any respect for the police. I often have heard other teenagers at school make negative comments about police officers. If these teenagers actually met an officer who wasn't afraid to stop them or giving them a ticket, I believe they would feel

differently. People often hold grudges against the police because they represent authority and people who tell you what to do.

There are also a lot of people who don't support the police. Citizens need to be supportive of the police because there is likely to come a time in their lives when they will need them. People who are thinking about becoming police officers could easily change their minds about the police career if there is no support from the community. Some people might say that being a police officer is a good job but they would never want to have because of the dangers.

Police officers have a big impact on the community. In some of the more dangerous neighborhoods in the Baltimore area, where children are in serious need of guidance, police officers in these neighborhoods have a high crime level and children who live in them are very likely to turn to the police. Police officers are good role models for them because they show them what the future for someone who lives a good life is like and can help deter that kind of behavior. The Police Officers League, is one of many youth programs that help children see the potential they have to succeed in school. I have met several officers who have worked in these neighborhoods and they really show they care about who these kids are and how important for youth to know that the police are there for them since officers often have to express their love for them.

I have learned something new about the police.

that I have met. In my opinion, people have to respect the police for the job they do. Several officers that I have met through the police explorers have been seriously injured or almost killed in the line of duty. Through the explorer program I had the opportunity to visit the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in Washington D.C. That was when I really saw how dangerous a police officer's job was. It put me in the shoes of the officers I know and made me wonder how they feel about the possibility that their name could easily become the next one on that memorial. One look at the dedication of officers shows they do not let that thought interfere with their heroic efforts to save lives.