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CO-DIRECTOR – Officer Joseph Risher

February 1, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a free program for children in Allegheny County. In 2004 the Pennsylvania State Police joined with the Allegheny County Police Department and the Allegheny County Sheriffs Department to bring the Camp Cadet program to Allegheny County. Camp Cadet is a youth camp established by the state police. Following is the history of the program and the reason for it.

Camp Cadet was originally formed in 1970 by Trooper Albert R. Vish, of the Pennsylvania State Police. Through his untiring efforts, this program became a reality. Trooper Vish along with John Prandy (deceased), and Robert Price (P.S.P. retired) were instrumental in establishing the first Camp Cadet in Butler County.

For forty-nine years, his idea has provided the inspiration for the establishment of other Camp Cadet Programs across Pennsylvania. The program was originally called the "Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet" and funding was provided by the community to the Pennsylvania State Police. Since 1970, Camp Cadet programs have been established in approximately 30 other counties in Pennsylvania.

Camp Cadet is a tuition free one-week event, staffed by local Pennsylvania State Police, Allegheny County Police, Allegheny County Sheriffs as well as officers and agents from other federal, state, county, city and local agencies who serve as counselors and instructors. The program is designed to give boys and girls, ages 12 thru 14, a better understanding of law enforcement activities while living in an atmosphere similar to a police training academy. Emphasis is placed on improving self-discipline, building self-esteem and confidence through teamwork and making new friends.

The camp is for any youth who resides in Allegheny County between the ages of 12 thru 14 and who is in good physical condition. It is **NOT** a camp for **TROUBLED YOUTH!** Sometimes we are mistaken for a boot camp. This camp is a mini version of a police academy. The day will consist of physical training (PT), followed by a morning run then the cadets will return to their quarters for personal hygiene and prepare of inspection. During the day various activities are scheduled including presentations by various agencies, a mock crime scene investigation, mock criminal trial and sporting activities.

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Allegheny County Camp Cadet is a non-profit, charitable organization that is funded by contributions from the community. For this reason, there is no charge to attend. This will be Allegheny County's 15th year and we are looking forward to providing the youth of Allegheny County an opportunity to challenge themselves in a positive environment and make new friends. The Allegheny County Camp Cadet program will be held at Camp Guyasuta in O'Hara Township, Allegheny County during the week of July 28th – August 3rd, 2019.

I believe that you will find this program beneficial to your students as well as your community and school district and I would ask that you share this information as well as the enclosed application with your students and their parents. Please feel free to make as many copies of this letter and application as you find necessary. Additional applications can be found online on our website at www.alleghenycountycampcadet.org. The applications will be accepted from Friday, February 22, 2019 through Monday, April 15, 2019. I have also included a list of the number of graduating cadets since 2005 and the school districts they represented.

If you would like additional information on Allegheny County Camp Cadet, please visit our website at www.alleghenycountycampcadet.org or by phone contact Officer Joseph Risher (Co-Director) at (412) 473-1322. I can also be reached by email at joseph.risher@alleghenycounty.us. Thank you for helping to make the Allegheny County Camp Cadet program a success and we look forward to seeing your students at our camp this year.

Sincerely,



Officer Joseph Risher (Co-Director)
Allegheny County Camp Cadet
Allegheny County Police Department