



# ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ILLINOIS STATE POLICE AND AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH POLICE CAMP INSPIRES FUTURE PUBLIC PROTECTORS**

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois State Police (ISP) and the American Legion hosted the American Legion Youth Police Camp (ALYPC) at the Illinois National Guard Academy at Camp Lincoln in Springfield June 23-28, 2024. Twenty-five 15–17-year-old teens, called Cadets, successfully completed the week-long residency camp. The primary goal of the ALYPC is to establish an interactive and positive relationship between Illinois teens, military personnel and law enforcement officers. The ALYPC is structured to promote educational and learning opportunities for youth from across Illinois in the areas of law enforcement, military, leadership, cultural diversity, personal development, physical fitness, as well as social and interpersonal skills.

“The American Legion has enjoyed another successful year of our American Legion Youth Cadet Program, with the assistance of the Illinois State Police and the Illinois National Guard,” said Chairman Wayne Madson of the American Legion. “We graduated 25 cadets this year on the 28th of June. It is very rewarding to watch these young kids grow in a week’s time. During the week, you saw kids working together for a goal of completing a task, and building confidence in themselves,” he added.

American Legion volunteers and ISP staff were assigned to manage the program and serve as instructors and mentors. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Secretary of State as well as the Illinois National Guard provide numerous resources and counselors for the camp. Many of the American Legion and ISP volunteers are former graduates of the program. The ALYPC Cadets were honored at a graduation ceremony and received a graduation certificate.

While the camp’s primary goal is to build positive relationships with teens, it also builds a path towards a potential career in law enforcement or the U.S. military. The ALYPC is one of four youth camps across the state ISP participates in - Principia College in Elsah, Lewis University in Romeoville, and Touch of Nature in Makanda. Anyone interested in joining the ranks of the Illinois State Police is encouraged to visit the Illinois State Police Merit Board (ISPMB) website at [www.illinoistrooper.com](http://www.illinoistrooper.com) for application information.

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