

Junior Deputy Program

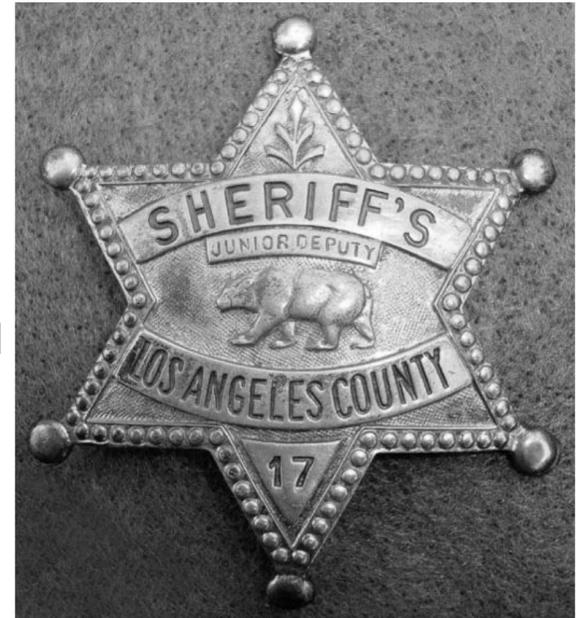
By Deputy Chris Miller (retired)

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"Calling all Junior Deputies....All Junior Deputies...report to your sergeants at Hollywood Station for duty in the forest fire area. Starting in 1938, this was the call that was broadcast over the short wave radio to activate the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Junior Deputies.

In 1933, the Hollywood Sheriff's Station began sponsoring Boy Scout Troup 175. This continued until 1938, when Captain R. J. Cook conceived a plan to allow fifteen to twenty-one year olds, who had outgrown the Boy Scouts, to continue with the program while also providing a service to the Sheriff's Department.

Cook noticed that new Sheriff's Deputies joined the department with little experience and it was very expensive and time consuming to train them. At that time, there was a great deal of crime and juvenile delinquency caused by ambitious teen boys who ran the streets with no organizations to keep them busy. He felt that a good way to reduce juvenile crime was to give the teens something constructive to do. He decided to bring them into the Sheriff's Office and train them. Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz liked the idea so much that he decided to sponsor the first 20 boys. He spent \$100 of his own money to purchase badges for the first Junior Deputies.



Junior Deputy Badge 17



Junior Deputies practice transporting a first aid victim

The location of the Sheriff's Station in Hollywood had its advantages. Reserve Deputy Louis Bennett's full-time job was chauffeur for Movie Star Joan Crawford. Since Deputy Bennett operated the Junior Deputy Program, he was able to enlist her help. After telling her about the new organization, she decided to provide money to support the Junior Deputy Program. Miss Crawford encouraged her friends to contribute to the program and contributions poured in from all over the country.

Boys from age fifteen to eighteen were recruited to join the new program. The Junior Deputy uniform consisted of a khaki shirt and pants with a black bow tie. Their uniform hat was khaki with a black bill and a metal cap piece. They also wore a Sam Browne Belt with a shoulder strap without any accessories attached to the belt. The badge they wore on their shirt resembled the same badge worn by full-time Deputy Sheriffs. There were no shoulder patches on the shirt.

At the inauguration ceremonies for the Junior Deputy Program, Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz pinned an honorary badge on Joan Crawford while 20 new Junior Deputies looked on.

The Junior Deputy Program grew to 100 deputies. They had the same rank structure as the Sheriff's Department. They were appointed as Inspectors, Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants and Deputies.

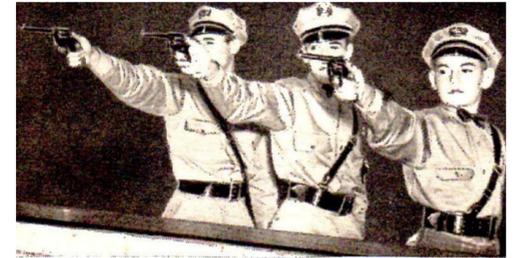


Junior Deputies treating a victim during first aid training

The first Junior Deputies began their intensive training under Reserve Inspector Louis Bennett and Chief Counselor Horace Roberts. They were trained in some of the same areas as regular Deputies. The start of the Junior Deputy Program put an end to most juvenile crime in the area.

Deputies were first responders on all medical emergencies until July 14, 1970, when Governor Ronald Reagan signed into law the Paramedic Act permitting fire paramedics to provide advanced medical life support. After that, deputies were no longer first responders to provide primary medical aid and care.

However, in the 1930's, deputies were still first responders for citizens requiring medical aid. Junior Deputies were also required to provide Emergency medical first aid so during their training they received extensive training in first aid.



Junior Deputies practice their shooting skills

Even though they did not carry a weapon, their training taught them to become great marksmen. They also learned traffic laws and the penal code.



Junior Deputies train on gun take-away techniques

These young Deputies were taught Jujutsu which allowed them to overpower larger opponents and take guns away from suspects.

After their initial training, they attended weekly meetings at the Hollywood Sheriff's Station, where they received additional training so they would be prepared for any emergency.

The group of Junior Deputies built two-way, short wave radios that allowed them to receive and dispatch orders.

The Junior Deputies were issued a truck equipped with ropes, ladders, lights and other emergency equipment.

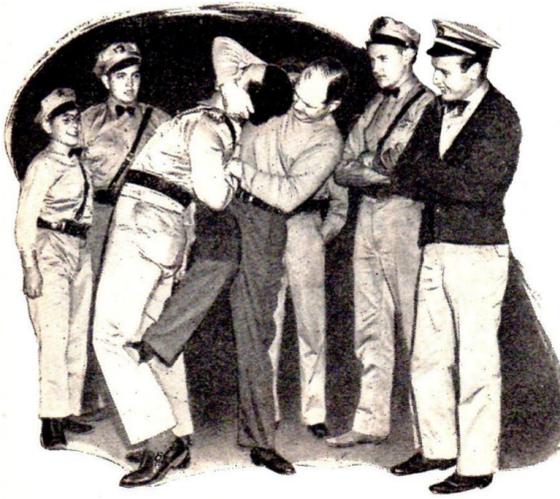
After receiving a request over the short wave radio to respond to the Sheriff's Station, the Junior Deputies showed up in uniform ready to provide assistance. They loaded everything necessary into their truck and with the siren clearing the way, they responded to an emergency.

They responded to forest fires, searched for missing children or searched for evidence. When they arrived at a fire they took charge just like regular deputies. Some of them began first aid on the victims while others begin feeding and providing shelter for those whose homes had been destroyed by the fire. Still other Junior Deputies began evacuating the area and directing traffic.



Junior Deputies monitor calls on a radio they built

Junior Deputies searched a field and located a gun that was used in a robbery. They also assisted in searching for a missing child who was eventually located at a neighbor's house.



Junior Deputies are taught suspect control techniques

The Junior Deputies performed essential jobs that didn't require a full time Deputy such as crowd control or taping off crime scene areas.

The Junior Deputy Program was unique for that time. The program grew beyond their expectations and became too much for anyone to handle and was disbanded in 1951. Almost forty years after it first began, the Junior Deputy Program would be resurrected as the "Explorer Program." The creators of the Explorer Program had no idea that a similar program had taken place in the 1930's. They started the Explorer Program in 1969, and expanded it throughout the Sheriff's Department, providing many services to the citizens of Los Angeles County.

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Poster designed by Lieutenant Dan Waidner (Retired)