

EFFECTIVE YOUTH Interactions WITH POLICE (**The Mirror Project**)

A Training Program for Juveniles to Improve Communication and Respect With Law Enforcement

Effective Youth Interactions With Police (EYIWP) or The Mirror Project is a one hour class for juveniles to improve communication between them and police officers. When it works properly, all people leave the interaction on their own terms. It is always facilitated by 2 uniformed and certified police officers.

Training participants will learn:

- The role of police officers in keeping everyone safe in the community and how juveniles can benefit from positive interactions with them.
- The role of juveniles in the community and how their respectful behavior positions them to receive the benefit of the doubt when they encounter police officers.
- The difference in communication with police and juveniles when have a casual encounter and when they need to be compliant as a result of a police call in progress.

This learning event is delivered by uniformed police officers, certified to deliver this program to groups of juveniles of 20 people or less. After completing Effective Police Interactions With Youth training, police officers may consider obtaining the certification process for themselves based on mutual interest and leadership demand.

The content in the learning event will include the clarification of expected behavior by police and by juveniles when they are in each other's presence regardless of race, ethnicity or gender.

Discussions will include possible causes of misunderstandings, confirmations of youth behavior and ways patrol officers can interact with them for the best outcomes. The importance of giving respect and getting respected is demonstrated through role play simulations, videos and discussions of mutual expectations.

The methodology will include videos of conditions and situations involving youth/police interactions that are both positive and negative. The debrief of each situation clarifies expectations and future actions.

At the end of the one hour learning event, juveniles come away with the following comments:

"I now understand how hard it is to get somebody to move along when told to."

"The training gave me skills in how to avoid being arrested and taken to jail."

"The class helped me understand and respect police officers more."

"I liked the opportunity to play the role of a police officer."

"Police say their credibility in the community improves after this training is done."

Please Contact NH DMC Coordinator Andrew Smith at (603) 419-0242 for more information.