

Ask the Chief

Dear Chief: What is required to become a police officer with the City of Alamosa and how do I know if this might be the right career path for me?

Dear Concerned Citizen: Like any profession, becoming a law enforcement officer requires a set of knowledge, skills, and abilities that are unique to specific job duties and responsibilities.

One of the greatest things about being a police officer is that each and every day is different and we have multiple opportunities to make a positive difference in our community. The downside is that sometimes the job can be thankless. Generally, people don't like to be stopped, written a ticket, arrested, or have to call the police to resolve a conflict so ultimately not everyone will be happy with the outcome of their contact with us. The job is demanding and suitable for everyone, but for those who are a good fit it can be a very rewarding and satisfying career.

An effective police officer is someone who will:

- Maintain personal and professional integrity.
- Demonstrate emotional self-control in the most trying of circumstances.
- Communicate effectively with people from all backgrounds.
- Adapt to changing environments and conditions easily.
- Problem-solve and make good decisions independently and collectively.
- Team with others to make a positive difference.
- Do the right things for the right reasons.
- Be committed to staying mentally and physically fit.
- Take ownership in making our community a better place for everyone.

Application and testing requirements include:

- Successful completion of a certified Colorado POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) academy.
- Successful completion of a written test.
- Successful completion of oral interviews.
- Successful completion of a physical readiness battery: a 1.5 mile run, 300 meter run, agility run, bench press, push-ups, sit-ups, and vertical jump.
- Successful completion of a thorough background investigation.
- If applicants make it this far; he/she will undergo drug and alcohol screening, a physical exam, and a psychological testing.

If you think you may be interested in learning more about our profession; reach out and speak to or schedule a ride-along with one of our police officers. If you already know this is the career for you, begin taking steps toward becoming POST certified/certifiable and then apply. Fortunately, SLV residents have a local POST academy held in Alamosa each year. For more information contact Kristi Duarte at Kduarte@ci.alamosa.co.us

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police