

CONNECTICUT BASIC SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAM



HOSTED BY VERNON POLICE DEPT

DATES: AUGUST 11 - AUGUST 15, 2025

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!!

"I'm a police officer not a teacher, however, I learned that I'm an educator. I have the responsibility as an SRO to educate the school community of my role. "Children need to be educated not eliminated." ~Student Evaluation

QUALITY TRAINING FOR THOSE WHO PROTECT

CT BASIC SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAM (HOURS - 0830-1630)

Brought to you by The Youth at Promise Alliance

Day One: Overview of School Resource Officer Programs - Foundations of School Based Policing, Relevant Laws and Administrator Panel, E. Middleton, B. Hallums, E. Spector and Guest Speakers from local schools.

Common responsibilities of school-based police officers include mentoring, teaching, creating partnerships, building relationships, and ensuring school safety. The underlying role of the SRO is based on what is known as the "Triad Concept." This approach incorporates the SRO serving as a law enforcement officer, a teacher, and a law-related counselor. During this overview, participants will learn about the history and philosophy of the SRO Program, how the Triad Concept has transformed as times have changed, and the importance of balancing the duties of law enforcement while developing and maintaining relationships with the students, teachers, and administrators. The CT School Resource Officer Program piloted by the Youth at Promise Alliance in 2010 was the first CT based program for School Resource Officers. The program was developed by the YAPA Advisory Committee, which included Connecticut law enforcement representatives, educators, and social service professionals specializing in juvenile/youth issues. The Committee met and determined what subject matter the curriculum should include that would assist officers to better perform in this unique role. The program focuses on the concept of building relationships between law enforcement and youth, while protecting and serving them and the community at large. Participants will also learn about relevant laws from an attorney including ethical considerations such as custody matters, school searches, drugs and more. The day will close with a panel discussion with local school staff volunteers led by retired Officer Bernie Hallums.

Day Two: Youth, Social Media & Technology Awareness, Driscoll, Held, Bartolotta.

A recent survey conducted by the Pew Research Center found that the landscape of social media is ever-changing, especially among teens. Most teens have access to digital devices, such as smartphones, desktop or laptop computers, and game consoles. Almost all U.S. teens report using the internet daily. Social networking has increasingly become the conduit by which predators reach our children. This day of training will focus on social network platform basics and the exploitation of children on and off the internet. Drug and alcohol trends amongst youth will also be explored.

Day Three: If It's Mean, Intervene! R. McHaelen, E. Middleton, T. LaBonte

Promoting positive social interactions in the school environment is a must! Inclusion means ensuring students from all backgrounds, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, gender, and orientation, are treated equally. Creating an environment of inclusivity requires strategies and attitudes that are shared and encouraged by the school administration, teachers, school resource officers and students. Participants will discuss issues surrounding stereotyping, hate and prejudice and barriers to cross-cultural communication. Bullying, school climate and "connectedness" will be covered. The effects of bullying on youth, practical intervention techniques and tips on preventing bullying, restorative practices and gender responsive strategies will also be addressed. Participants will learn about the three core elements of a "Restorative Justice Circle" **"Encounter, Repair and Transform"**. Connection circles are a relationship building process and the tips learned during this day of training will be put to the test on the final day with a group of local students.



Day Four: Is It Even Possible to Understand the Teen Brain? We can reach them!
Phyllis DiGioia, LCSW and Honor Wellness Staff / Colleagues.

How do we reach them? We will discuss tools and strategies to make that happen in a school-based environment. Undiagnosed, untreated, or inadequately treated mental health issues can significantly interfere with a student's ability to learn, grow and develop. Phyllis DiGioia and colleagues will cover topics including Adolescent Brain Development, Suicide, Self-Harming, School Refusal, Helping Youth Cope with Grief, Mood Disorders, Developmental Disorders, ADHD, Spectrum Disorders, Students with Disabilities and Trauma Informed Care and Crisis Response.

Day Five: Youth Conflict Management & Student Panel: B. Shea, T. LaBonte, Local Student Volunteers.

Join retired police detective, former teacher and current bestselling author, Brian Shea, as well as a panel of local youth for this day of interactive training. Brian will teach participants about verbal techniques/communication skills and tactics to de-escalate situations. His former experience as a teacher along with his police background come together for the perfect combination of understanding how you can bring the police and school cultures together seamlessly.

During the afternoon session Brian and Tammy will lead Circle Groups where officers will join with the student volunteers to engage in discussion. The final portion of the program will be a question answer panel moderated by a student leader.



Your Trainers



Atty. Elliot B. Spector



SRO Earl Middleton, Jr.



Brian Shea



Robin McHaelen, MSW



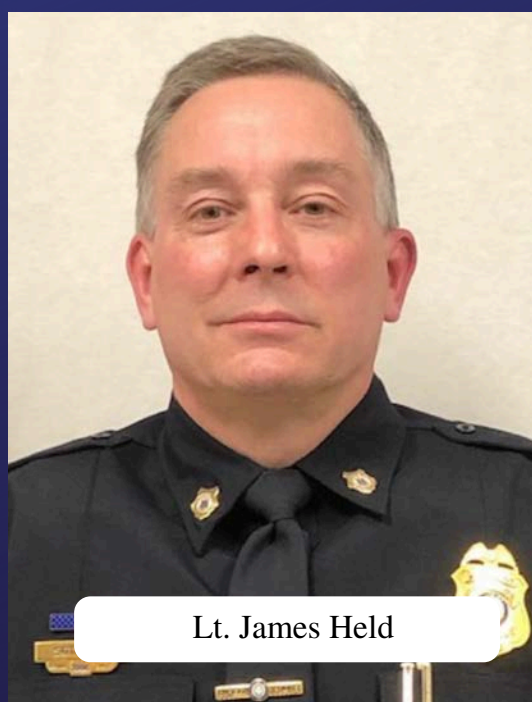
Bernard "Bernie" Hallums



D.C. Chris Bartolotta



Scott Driscoll



Lt. James Held



Phyllis DiGioia, LCSW