Indiana Sheriffs’ Association Summer Leadership Camps Create Lasting Memories ....
.... and a Few Aspiring Law Enforcement Officials

NORTH CAMP

Sheriff Rusty Hart has a few passions. One is being the best Sheriff that Warren County can have - another is spearheading the ISA Youth Leadership’s North Camp.

For the past 7 years, Sheriff Hart has been the director of the ISA North camp. In those 7 years, the camp has doubled in size and another day has been added to accommodate camp activities.

“The 2013 camping season saw 130 7th and 8th grade campers from over 30 northern Indiana counties,” stated Sheriff Hart. “We continually strive to offer relevant programming for our campers and keep them involved throughout the four day ISA camp.”

Typically, there are 10 campers assigned for each 2 counselors. Counselors are Sheriff’s Deputies and Correctional staff assigned by many of the state's Northern
Sheriff’s Offices. This ensures the campers get the attention and guidance they need while at camp. The north camp features plenty of activities that include a rock wall, zip line, a pool and an area for a camp-wide cookout.

“Our primary objective - to dispel any misconceptions that some kids have about what Sheriff’s Deputies do in their daily occupation. So many times, parents instill fear into their children without even knowing it. How many times have you heard a parent point at an officer and tell their children ‘if you are bad, he will come and get you and take you away’? That type of notion stays with a child for years. We are not the bad guys - we are here to protect and serve. The camp gives them the information and training to better understand and appreciate an officer’s duty,” explains Sheriff Hart.

The ISA camp also wants to ensure the campers learn discipline and leadership skills they can take back home with them - and put them into practice.” Camp counselors work with the campers through many different scenarios and team building exercises - which include Crime Scene/Homicide investigation, investigating a Domestic Disturbance, and a SWAT Call Out scenario. They are given the resources and equipment and are asked then to negotiate and solve the problems. The campers also do a “Sheriff’s version” of the Olympics, which encompasses team building exercises and drills, and a few “creative contests” that are very fun. “Campers also learn the important lesson that there are consequences for your actions. We put this concept into practice with many of our teambuilding exercises, demonstrations, and through several guest speakers that have real life experience’s to share - and it tends to hit home,” says Sheriff Hart.

The camp continually hears of campers returning to their home county excited about what they’ve learned.

Executive Director’s Message

An Easy Way to Support the ISA and its Programs - Buy a Speciality Plate in 2014

At the Indiana Sheriffs’ Association, we strive to keep you informed regarding all of our programs. Our feature article this quarter is about the North and South Youth Leadership camps and their impact on the youth that attend. This is an endeavor near and dear to many past camp attendees, as well as the Sheriff's offices that help promote and work at these camps. As you have read, these camps provide vital leadership training to the kids that attend - and whether or not they become law enforcement officers - the skills and self worth they gain from their experiences are priceless. This is also true about our scholarship programs for those seeking education in law enforcement. Many of those who receive an ISA scholarship through their respective county go on to a career as an officer, trainer, EMT - the possibilities are limitless! Just as we have experienced recently, the death of an officer is tough, but is a known risk of the occupation. ISA strongly supports death benefits for fallen officers and their families. Your support of the Indiana Sheriffs’ Association provides invaluable services to so many across the state of Indiana. So next year when you are renewing your vehicle license plates, think of the Indiana Sheriffs’ Association. The purchase of an ISA Speciality License Plate is another easy way you can assist these programs and make a difference. The method you use to renew or obtain your license plate will be the same method to obtain an ISA Speciality Plate. Just let BMW know you want the ISA plate, you do not need any additional forms from ISA to obtain the plate. The cost is $40 over and above your normal plate cost $25 will come back to the ISA to support our Youth Leadership Camps, Scholarship Program, Death Benefit for families of Fallen Officers and Training. The remaining $15 is a BMW Administrative fee.

"A speciality plate is another way to show your support of the Indiana Sheriffs’ Association."
and experienced - which is why our numbers are so high,’” says the sheriff. “However, we don’t want to get too many kids and lose our personal touch. There is nothing more satisfying to me than to talk with a parent or grandparent, or friend of a child that has attended camp, and learn that they can’t stop talking about their experience. It is a rare opportunity for us to have this age group go out and speak positively about our agency and our staff. It is indeed very rewarding, and makes the effort and resources we put into this program all worthwhile.”

“We cannot thank Tippecanoe County enough for the use of their resources and manpower each and every year. Many counties send in counselors and resources that deserve a big thank you and a pat on the back - but Tippecanoe County has some resources that so many of us do not have simply because of their size and the inclusion of a Big Ten University. The ISA North Camp cannot be remiss in their appreciation to camp donors, whether it is through direct donations or via the Harley Davidson raffle. It takes about $40,000 each and every year to put on the two ISA Camps. The kids come almost free (a $25 fee is charged to attend camp that most Sheriff’s pay, or find sponsors for) to learn valuable lessons that last a lifetime. Without those donors - we would not see such remarkable results.”

The ISA North Camp will continue to grow at their current location in Warren County. After Sheriff Hart finishes his second term, he plans on returning to deputy status, and continue with his work on the North ISA Camp. “As long as the new Warren County Sheriff will allow me to do so - I’ll be here until I’m an old man - and that’s a guarantee!”

**SOUTH CAMP**

With another successful ISA Leadership Camp under his belt, Sheriff Mike Heaton, of Clay County, isn’t resting just yet. He knows once one camp is wrapped up - it is time to begin plans for next year’s camp.

Sheriff Heaton, along with other County Sheriffs, heads up the ISA South Camp held every year at the Waycross Camp in Brown County, and has done so for the past 8 years. “I began working with the South Camp under Sheriff Buck Stogsdill of Brown County 12 years ago. I got involved early on in planning and scheduling - and it quickly morphed into so much more,” explains Sheriff Heaton. As the director of the South Camp, Sheriff Heaton and other Sheriffs, along with staff, coordinate everything for the camp, ensuring the campers have a full slate of activities, and that there are counselors for every need. “Without participating counties support and know-how, this camp would be tough to continually do year after year. We rely on county’s sending deputies and other staff members to be counselors and providing assets that we can use for the benefit of our campers.”

“Our main goal for every leadership camp … Trust, Respect, Discipline. It is also important to understand you cannot accomplish everything by yourself.
Communication with your peers is always key - and with good communication comes teamwork. Teamwork is a big underlying theme every year at the camp, and the exercises and activities reflect this concept. Whether introducing the kids to basic training concepts, SWAT team procedures or DUI affects, the kids learn that by working together the outcomes are usually easier to obtain and more satisfying.

The ISA Leadership Camp gives kids the chance to see what we do every day - and that we are just like them! We eat, drink, sleep and work hard every day. Just because we carry a gun and enforce the law doesn’t mean we’re any different from other human beings - other than we protect and serve the general public. We also ensure the programs we provide are up to date and keep their attention - this way they learn to protect themselves and we can provide them with the support they need.

The participating ISA counties provide people power and assets, but without our ISA supporters we could not do these camps. Each and every year, we are thankful for the contributions by our ISA supporters. Without their generous financial support, whether through the motorcycle raffle or direct donations, we could not continue our work with the youth that come to the camps.

The trust that is built between counselors and campers, and everyone in between, cannot be measured. Closing ceremonies wrap up several days of hard work at the camp. Parents and other family members come to the camp to observe and learn a bit about the previous three days. “At closing ceremonies every year - it is so gratifying to watch the kid’s expressions. They have made lifetime friends and built bonds that potentially lend to a decision in their future. Going into law enforcement isn’t the objective - becoming leaders in their community through good works and leadership is the goal. More often than not - they reach that goal ... and that’s what it’s all about.”
Serving his 5th term, Sheriff George Ballard has Served Gibson County Well

"About every time you think you’ve seen it all, something else happens!" In his five terms as Gibson County Sheriff, George Ballard thinks about his 40+ years in law enforcement... and that’s the reoccurring theme that comes to mind time and time again. Assured that many other Indiana Sheriffs can relate to this sentiment, Sheriff Ballard prepares to finish his final term at the end of 2014.

Sheriff Ballard’s career has spanned several decades - and the work and duties of the sheriff’s department have been many.

I began as a special deputy in 1972 and worked my way up to deputy in 1975, then Sergeant, and on to Captain. My first term as sheriff began in 1982. Former Gibson County Sheriff, Roger Emmert, was a big influence on my decision to run for Sheriff. I was 32 years old at the time, law enforcement was my passion and my family supported the idea," states Sheriff Ballard.

So began a career as sheriff that has spanned 31 years. In that time, Sheriff Ballard has learned many lessons while affording his department to grow, prosper and diligently do their jobs for the citizens of Gibson County.

As a sheriff, George Ballard has seen distinctive changes in the responsibilities of sheriff. "It is much more complicated running a sheriff's department in 2013 than in 1982. Most of the sheriff's time is spent dealing with the business side of the department. Issues that concern legalities, handling budgets, and working with the county council and commissioners to ensure tasks are being handled appropriately. It is the responsibility of the sheriff to handle these assignments so the rest of the department can take care of any issues that arise in the communities we serve. "I also maintain a strong community presence. The only real way to do this job correctly is to partner with community programs and schools to make sure everyone is safe and sound."

Sheriff Ballard is also responsible for the day to day operations of the 911 call center and the community corrections department. "Few sheriffs run all of these departments within their own counties, but our department handles all facets due to our size - and for budgetary reasons. At the same time, this affords our department the ability to use technology to enhance how the programs run and to maintain their efficiency."

The sheriff gives high praise to everyone in the Gibson County Sheriff's Department. "One lesson I learned early in my career, surround yourself with good quality people. The self-motivation and determination of everyone in our department continually amazes me."

Speaking of praise - Sheriff Gibson’s family has always been some of his most fervent supporters. "I have been married for 36 years, and my wife has been beyond supportive and understanding through all of my campaigns, and with the demands of the job. Even when I am "off-duty" and get called in for any situation, she has been the first one to say go do your job. My three children have also been super throughout my years as sheriff. How many kids do you know that the first place they would walk to after school was the jail?" All three of Sheriff Ballard’s children were born and raised in Gibson County, two still live close by and one lives in Sandusky, Ohio. Sheriff Ballard’s youngest son is now a Gibson County Sheriff’s Deputy. "It’s an honor when a son or daughter follows in your footsteps," exclaims Sheriff Ballard.

Of all the work Sheriff Ballard has done for Gibson County, one of his best memories is the construction of a new jail in 1989. "The project went smoothly and turned out great for the community. It was definitely needed in our county - and was a project that was supported by our Gibson County communities."

When asked about his biggest concern, the Sheriff was quick to reply with drug usage and abuse. "Drug usage is such a huge issue. I wish citizens would see how bad drugs affect so many people in our own communities. So many people either ruin or lose their lives because of drug addictions and abuse. Billions of dollars flow out of our country each and every year - and I have personally seen adults and children suffer so much for a pill or a drink."

Even though the sheriff’s fifth and final term is winding down, you won’t find Sheriff Ballard lacking enthusiasm for the job his constituency has elected him to five terms. "I will do my job to the best of my ability for my remaining time in office. We all still have numerous, important jobs to do for the people of Gibson County. Outreach...Serving and protecting. The passion I’ve had for 40+ years will continue to serve me, my family and our communities well for the next 14 months... You can count on it!"
Sheriff of the Year -
Jeff Cappa of Wayne County

To say Sheriff Jeff Cappa was surprised at being named the ISA Sheriff of the Year would be an understatement.

"I had no idea the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department had nominated me for this honor. Everyone kept it a secret," explained Sheriff Cappa.

"I can honestly say, the Sheriff is only as good as the entire department. The entire staff has undergone a lot of changes since I took office in 2011. Some of these changes have not been easy - but the outcomes we’ve achieved together are tremendous!"

Sheriff Cappa attributes his success to a plethora of ideals and events in his life. Beginning in 1977, Sheriff Cappa began working with the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department as an Explorer. "The sheriff at that time was John Catey, and he was certainly instrumental in my decision to remain in the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department. He gave me the opportunity to work as a dispatcher after school. Once I graduated in 1980, he deputized me and I became a jail officer. How many 18 year olds get the chance to begin a law enforcement career in high school? He had a lot of faith in me, and I wanted to ensure I did the best job I could do," states Cappa.

So began Sheriff Cappa’s climb through the Wayne County Sheriff ranks. A jail officer until 1983, Sheriff Cappa was then promoted to an Enforcement Merit Officer, a Youth Services Officer, Investigator and Detective. In 2003, Sheriff Cappa became the Chief Deputy, a position he held until running for Sheriff in 2010. "I served under 6 different Sheriff’s and I always made sure I learned something from each one of them. I must admit, being the Sheriff of Wayne County is one of the greatest jobs there is… It is very humbling and an honor when citizens trust you to do what is right and fair. Wayne County knows our department will protect and ensure their safety day after day. What other job are you given that much trust and responsibility?" Another aspect of Sheriff Cappa’s success is the support of his family. "I got married at age 19. My wife, and three children have always been my biggest fans and biggest support. You cannot take on a job like Sheriff without your family being behind you every step of the way."

Since becoming the Wayne County Sheriff in 2011, the office has undergone a lot of positive change. The sheriff attributes the success of the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department to the entire staff. "I wanted to create a strategic plan for the sheriff’s department early on so we would all have a cohesive concept concerning the direction of our department. We started from ground zero - and trained everyone. Buy-in was tremendous! The entire team worked hard to develop their plan. It wasn’t always easy - but the results have been astounding."

"I have definitely learned that I don’t know everything - and keeping an open mind helps everyone with the job at hand. A little over a month into my newly elected position as Sheriff, one of our deputies was severely injured. I wanted to do all I could to ensure he was okay - and that our department did all we could do for he, and his family. At that point, I came to better understand that some things are out of our control, and all decisions affect someone’s life. Not everyone will always be happy, but as long as we do what is right - that’s what really matters."

"The Indiana Sheriffs’ Association has been a superb resource for our department. If I have a situation where I need help - they have resources I can rely upon."

Hoping to run for Sheriff again in 2014 - Sheriff Cappa promises to work hard and do his duty for the citizens of Wayne County. "33 years in law enforcement has served my family, and myself, very well. I’ll keep on doing the job I was elected to for as many years as I am elected... And I will keep learning along the way."

Congratulations Sheriff Cappa on being the Indiana Sheriffs’ Association Sheriff of the Year!
Departing the cafeteria after enjoying a school lunch with his 10 year old son, Kaden, Sheriff Chestnut makes his way through the maze of elementary school kids who want to give him a high five or even a hug. "This is one of the most important things I can do as Sheriff of Perry County, be a positive influence on the kids in the community."

Dedicated to the residents of Perry County, Sheriff Lee Chestnut Has a lot of Fans

As a relatively new Sheriff of this southern Indiana County, Sheriff Chestnut has a huge appreciation for the law enforcement community, and strives to do the best he can for a county he holds dear to his heart.

1999 brought a variety of changes to Sheriff Chestnut - as he left for a position in Bowling Green, Kentucky. "I took a job with the city police department. This position gave me great experience with a city department that was away from Perry County. This was good for me, as I gained valuable knowledge on law enforcement within a city department."

In 2002, the Perry County Sheriff called me and offered me a deputy position. I couldn’t pass up the chance to return to my home county. My wife and I were ready to start a family and Perry County is a great place to work, live and raise a family - the timing couldn’t have been more ideal," states Sheriff Chestnut. "I worked as a deputy from 2002 until 2010 when I became Chief Deputy. I was elected to the office of Sheriff in 2011."

"Being elected by the people of Perry County has been a huge honor. One that I do not take lightly," explains the sheriff. "One of Sheriff Chestnut’s first responsibilities was to take the reins of the jail building project. "This project was placed on the right footing from the beginning - many good people set a good foundation before I was elected," stated Sheriff Chestnut. "It became clear my job was to ensure the Perry County voters were informed about the new jail facility to the maximum. We started holding public hearings to ensure there were no surprises. We even did tours of the old facility to show the need for better security and meeting federal liability issues. The old facility, a house built in 1965, had served the public well for 50+ years. We plan on having the new jail and sheriff’s offices complete by early 2014. Before move-in even begins - open houses will be done for everyone to come and see the building and how it will provide a safer, more efficient and technologically updated environment."

Another high priority for the Sheriff - better communication across all law enforcement agencies in the county. "We can do a much better job if we just talk to each other. With the changing society of social media, law enforcement must continually be in touch with the public to negate half-truths and listen to concerns of the public. I continually tell people we cannot fix something we do not know about - we must be honest to expect open, honest conversation in return," states Sheriff Chestnut. "The biggest challenges we face in Perry County are drug abuse and theft. We are not unlike every other county in the state with regards to these issues and how they affect so many people across the board. Drug abuse lends itself to domestic issues that include theft and mental health."

Sheriff Chestnut attributes his early successes to his superb staff at the sheriff’s department who are always willing to help and work together, and to his family. His wife, Jennifer is a Tell City High School teacher and his children, Kaden age 10, Lanie age 7 and Ty age 3 keep him busy in his off-duty time. "My family was instrumental in allowing me to be sheriff. Their support is so important. My mom, sister and friends helped me with my campaign - and that’s when I realized I wouldn’t trade Perry County for anything! The people of Perry County come together in times of need - and that’s what being a good community is all about."

Sheriff Chestnut plans to run for a second term in Perry County in 2014, and continues to be an important part of the county in other ways, through helping coach little league to Firearms instruction at the local firing range. "Being a good sheriff not only means being a good agent of law enforcement, it also means you care for your community and want to be involved in many different ways."

Whether in the school cafeteria, on the cross country course or in a public meeting, you’ll find Sheriff Chestnut doing what he knows best - being an advocate for Perry County and its people.
Your Support Means More Than You Can Imagine!

Your support of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association means leadership camps thrive, families are supported and education is improved for all 92 counties in the state of Indiana. Thank you!

Yes! I want to support the Indiana Sheriffs' Association's Training, Youth Leadership Camps and Scholarship Programs.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________ State: ________ Zip: ________
I have enclosed: ★$25 ★$50 ★$100 ★$300 ★$500 ★$1,000 ★Other $ ________
If paying by Visa, MasterCard or American Express:
Card Number: __________ Exp Date: __________
Signature: __________

Please cut out this form, place in a stamped envelope and return along with your contribution to: Indiana Sheriffs' Association
147 East Maryland St., Indianapolis, IN 46204 OR You may also visit www.indianasheriffs.org to make your contribution online.

* The ISA does not participate in telephone solicitations. All email and physical addresses are kept confidential. WE DO NOT SELL OUR MAILING LISTS. WE RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY.