

What to Expect as a Member of WCSO

At the Walton County Sheriff's Office, we believe our agency can make a difference. Our main responsibility is earning and maintaining the public's trust. We have grown as a public safety agency with the addition of Walton County Fire Rescue, but our core values remain the same.

Whether it be our deputies, our Fire Rescue personnel, or any other WCSO division, our core values are Integrity, Service, and Courage. Ours is a profession of service where we are granted the honor of upholding the Constitutional Rights of our citizens, protecting life and property, and rendering aid to those who may be experiencing the toughest day of their lives.

Not everyone has what it takes to be a member of the Walton County Sheriff's Office. Our mission requires individuals with self-discipline, honor, and a desire to treat our citizens with the utmost respect. Our work doesn't stop when the clock hits 5 pm or on holidays.

Before you consider applying to be part of our team, please understand a few of our priorities:

1. Be at work on time. This is not a suggestion. If you're late, that means someone is covering you. ***Show respect for yourself and for your co-workers: arrive on time ready to work.***
2. Hurricanes don't punch a clock at the end of the day, neither do we. Our shifts cover nights, weekends, and holidays. In emergency situations, it is possible that you could be called into work on your day off. This isn't a normal occurrence, but life happens. Sometimes we have to change the game plan.
3. We want you to be able to spend time with your family and encourage you to have interests outside of work, but please be aware that the needs of the agency have to be met. If you have reoccurring sicknesses that involve you calling out consistently on weekends or Fridays, rest assured that the problem will be addressed.
4. As previously stated, our shifts run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week 365 days a year. Do not expect that you will automatically work day shift with weekends off.
5. You will work areas of the county you may not be familiar with or have an interest in. While we try to assign zones based on preference, your patch will say Walton County, not a specific area.
6. This agency is very open to new ideas; however there is an appropriate time and place to voice concerns. While we expect and encourage loyal dissent, do not do this in the middle of a call or in public. Approach your chain of command if an issue arises.
7. Your appearance will demand respect and is a direct reflection on the Walton County Sheriff's Office. If you look sloppy or unprofessional, we will address that with you. Be prepared for duty mentally and physically with your equipment in working order. No, you cannot dye your hair purple or get a spider tattoo on your neck. Show pride in yourself and your agency.

8. Your education and training is your responsibility, not just ours. We will invest in the best training possible, but you must invest in learning.. Don't wait for someone to hold your hand. Be proactive in seeking to learn more and be better.

9. Take care of your equipment. You're provided the best equipment available and have a responsibility to take care of issued equipment. You may not keep your personal car clean, but you will take care of ours. Scuffed leather, a rusty gun, or a dirty un-pressed uniform will not be tolerated.

10. You will be held to a higher standard. Your conduct both on and off duty is a reflection of the Sheriff and this organization. If your actions, in any way, bring dishonor on this agency or your personal life becomes our problem, there are consequences. (Examples include but are not limited to: public intoxication, willingly failing to pay debts, discriminatory behavior, extramarital affairs, distasteful social media posts, using your badge to solicit special privileges, reckless driving, dancing on the table of a bar....)

You will be asked over your career to mediate between neighbors arguing over yard trash, property line disputes, and pets. You will be asked to stop and help stranded motorists and change countless tires. You will counsel people who have lost control of their lives due to chemical dependency, loss of emotional control, and difficult financial situations. You will be asked to assist people who are physically challenged and need help getting up after a fall. You will deal with the mentally ill, families in crises, and people who call for help but curse you on a routine basis. You may have to tell someone their son or daughter, mother or father is not coming home. You may have to provide stability and comfort to people at a truly horrific scene. You will provide guidance and strength that will sometimes be met with anger or tears in return.

If any of these situations make you hesitate, you should not continue in this process. You can have a strong desire to serve your community and still determine this line of work is not for you. But if you so choose to embark on this journey, it will be one of the most rewarding careers imaginable. Public servants are not in this profession to become wealthy, but they realize their own personal growth and making a difference in people's lives is a far greater prize than money can buy.

The quality of your career is in your hands. We will give you the tools, training, and guidance to be successful. If you are ready for the journey of a lifetime, we can begin this adventure together.