What are Law Enforcement Cadets?
Since 1984, young men and women have partnered with the USC Department of Public Safety (DPS) to learn about law enforcement and emergency services. They use what they learn to perform a variety of community-based, non-hazardous assignments throughout the USC Campus Community and throughout the Southern California Region.

What Do We Do?
Cadets perform their duties under the supervision of full-time DPS officers who serve as post advisors. Some of the Cadets’ duties include:

- Weekly post meetings
- Specialized training
- Event crowd and traffic control
- Crime Prevention programs
- Physical fitness training
- USC Football Games
- USC Special Events
- Study Hall
- Volunteer Community Service
- DPS patrol ride-alongs
- Sports Competitions
- Field trips
- Social Events

How Can I Become A Cadet?
To become a candidate, you must meet the following minimum qualifications.

- Between the ages of 13 and 17 years
- Have at least a “C” average in school
- Have good moral character
- Have parental consent
- Be in good physical condition
- Obtain a medical examination (to qualify for insurance)
- Attend and graduate from the Cadet Academy
- Demonstrate a willingness to serve the community and participate in Cadet activities
- Have no record of serious arrests or convictions

The candidate must also successfully complete an oral interview.

What Happens Next?
Candidates who meet the minimum qualifications to be a Law Enforcement Cadet must successfully complete a recruit academy.

Recruit training consists of approximately 96 hours of academic, physical conditioning, and experiential classes. The academy extends over 15 consecutive Saturdays.

Cadet recruits take classes in criminal law, community relations, firearms safety, narcotics control, police procedures, weaponless defense, physical fitness, and character development at the Los Angeles Police Cadet Academy in Westchester.

What More Do We Offer?
In addition to getting the law enforcement experience, USC DPS Cadets have access to educational resources through the University’s JEP Program, and free tutoring from USC students. Tutors are available in academic subjects ranging from math, science, English, computer technology, and more. All Cadets are required to participate in a 3 hour weekly mandatory study hall on the USC campus.
A Learning Experience

Make a difference in your community.
Be a leader.
Take the first step by contacting a cadet advisor at the Public Safety station at the University of Southern California.

In partnership with
USC Joint Educational Project (JEP) and the Josephson Institute of Ethics

USCDPS Cadet Mission
We are committed to public service while focusing on creating leaders through character development to better serve our society, and to enhance education by partnering with the USC Campus Community.

USC Department of Public Safety
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