

What Does a Police Officer Do?

Police officers are a group of people whose job it is to enforce laws, help with emergencies, solve crimes and protect the public. Police officers are trained in first aid and rescue, because they are often one of the first people to get to a place where people are sick or injured, such as a car accident or a fire.

Police Dogs

Police dogs are used to support police officers when solving crimes. A police dog's nose is about 50 times more sensitive than a human's nose, which makes them perfect for finding dangerous things. Not every dog can become a police dog. The best dogs tend to be German shepherds, labradors and spaniels as they have a keen sense of smell. Only specially-trained officers are allowed to have a dog.



What Do Police Officers Do?

Police officers are part of the emergency services team alongside paramedics, firefighters and the coastguard. Their main role is to ensure that people follow our laws and that people are safe. Police officers are also expected to help to calm people down when they are cross or upset. They can be asked to attend different events, such as parades or football matches, to ensure that everyone is safe and they also provide support and information to communities.

Where Do They Work?

Police officers are based in police stations. This is where they carry out any paperwork and duties that need to be recorded. There are many places that you might see a police officer including in town centres, at concerts, football stadiums and even fairgrounds. They are usually just making sure that everyone is safe and they answer any questions that the public may have.



What Do Police Officers Wear?

The uniform for a police officer consists of a helmet, light blue shirt, reflective vest and navy pants. The reflective vests allow people to see them clearly at night and during the day. Police officers also carry a number of items with them, including a radio to listen to instructions, a light in case they are somewhere dark and a pair of handcuffs for moving criminals to the police station.

How Do You Become a Police Officer?

In order to become a police officer, you need to ensure that you are fit and healthy. Police officers are required to carry heavy equipment and need to be able to run fast so there is a physical test that you need to pass. You need NCEA qualifications from secondary school. You also need to be able to pass a written test before you are allowed to start your duties.



What Does a Police Officer Do? Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Why are police officers often trained in first aid?

2. How sensitive is a police dog's nose?

3. Why does a police officer need to be fit and healthy?

4. Name two qualities that a police officer needs to have.

5. Name two breeds of dog that are used in the police force.

6. Would you like to be a police officer? Why?

7. If you had to summarise what a police officer does in three words, what would they be?
