



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Sheriff to Offer Detention Service Technician Program

Date: September 23, 2022

Sheriff Al Nienhuis is pleased to announce the implementation of the **Detention Service Technician (DST)** program at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

Similar to the Public Service Technician (PST) program, which was developed for those interested in becoming a law enforcement deputy sheriff, the DST program is geared toward those interested in becoming a detention deputy sheriff.

To be eligible to participate in the DST program, the individual must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED and pass a law enforcement background check.

The Detention Service Technician is a part-time position (18 hours per week), with a starting salary of \$15 per hour. The DST will perform various tasks throughout the detention center, in a civilian capacity. During this time, the DST will be evaluated on his/her performance, for possible promotion to detention deputy sheriff. Consideration for promotion will not occur until the individual is at least 19 years of age.

If selected to become a detention deputy sheriff, the DST will move into a Temporary Employment Authorization (TEA) status. At this time, the HCSO and the TEA detention deputy sheriff enter into a two-year agreement, to which the HCSO will fund the tuition for attendance to the corrections academy, and the TEA detention deputy sheriff will be required to remain employed by the HCSO for a minimum of two years, in accordance with the terms of the contract.

The TEA detention deputy sheriff will begin the Field Training Officer (FTO) program, until they begin attending the corrections academy, which will occur within 180 days of being hired as a detention deputy sheriff.

Applicants who are 19 years of age, or older, and meet all requirements may enter the TEA detention deputy sheriff status under the same contract agreement.

Once the TEA detention deputy sheriff completes the corrections academy and successfully passes the state certification exam, they will then complete the remaining portion of the FTO program.

Upon successful completion of the FTO program and FTO exit interview, the detention deputy sheriff will be released from the FTO program and assigned to a post.

Questions regarding this program should be directed to Human Resources at 352-754-6830.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate based upon race, ancestry, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, medical condition, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.