

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

CONTACT: Sergeant Sharon Jung at [SJung@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:SJung@pd.sandiego.gov)

# San Diego Police Invites Middle School Students to Join NEW Junior Cadet Leadership Program

**San Diego** — Expanding on the well-established Cadet Program, the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) is proud to announce a new Junior Cadet Program to help middle school students build leadership skills, confidence and character while engaging with SDPD officers and detectives as mentors.

The Junior Cadet Program is accepting applications now through May 4 for the first group of SDPD Junior Cadets, which starts on May 19, 2026. A second round of applications is anticipated to open in late July.

The program aims to foster integrity, respect, teamwork, and service through a structured, interactive environment. By participating in classroom learning, physical fitness, and team-building exercises, cadets gain valuable experience that prepares them for the future.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Grade Level:** Be currently enrolled in 6th or 7th grade, or be a 5th-grade student promoting to 6th grade.
- **Academic Standing:** Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.
- **Character and Conduct:** Demonstrate good moral character, personal responsibility, and have no significant disciplinary history at school.
- **Attendance:** Maintain satisfactory school attendance and attend bi-weekly meetings.
- **Physical and Team Requirements:** Be physically capable of participating in basic training activities and demonstrate the ability to follow instructions, maintain discipline, and work effectively in a team environment.
- **Interests:** Express an interest in law enforcement, leadership development, and community service.

## How to Apply

To take the first step to become a Junior Cadet, students and parents [can apply online today](#).

- **Application Deadline:** Interested students must submit their applications by **May 4, 2026**.

- **Start Date:** The program officially begins on May 19, 2026.
- **Meeting Schedule:** Meetings are held on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. at Police Plaza, 4020 Murphy Canyon Rd. While the program operates on a biweekly schedule, please note that meetings traditionally fall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Sergeant Sharon Jung at [SJung@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:SJung@pd.sandiego.gov).

---

### **About the SDPD Junior Cadet Program**

The San Diego Police Department's Junior Cadet Program is designed for students in grades 6-8. By combining the proven Travis Manion Foundation curriculum with the mentorship of active-duty officers, the program helps build responsible and confident leaders of tomorrow.

###