



# Office of the Washington County Sheriff

---

Dan Starry, County Sheriff

Douglas Anschutz, Chief Deputy

## News Release

**Contact:** Laura Perkins, Public Information Manager

**Phone:** 651-430-7994

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** April 1, 2024

**Washington County Sheriff's Office hosts 54th Minnesota D.A.R.E. class:  
Going beyond expectations in community policing and youth empowerment**

**STILLWATER, MINN.** – The Washington County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce the start of the 54th Minnesota D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) class today at the Washington County Government Center, where law enforcement from across the state gather become the next wave of D.A.R.E. officers dedicated to community policing and youth empowerment.

With 90 officers trained by MN D.A.R.E. in just two years, this reflects a growing desire for proactive engagement in promoting safety and well-being among our youth. At its core, D.A.R.E. is more than just a program; it's a collaborative partnership between law enforcement, parents, and educators dedicated to empowering youth to make positive choices. With a focus on forging meaningful connections with families, D.A.R.E. equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate life's challenges with resilience and integrity.

As the largest community-policing program in Minnesota, D.A.R.E. reaches over 60,000 students annually through over 230 specially trained officers. The 54th class in Stillwater welcomes law enforcement candidates from across Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, including three dedicated deputies from Washington County. Over the course of an intensive two-week program, these officers will undergo comprehensive training, covering topics including substance abuse prevention, cyberbullying awareness, and suicide prevention.

For more information on the impactful work of Minnesota D.A.R.E., contact [MNDARE@aol.com](mailto:MNDARE@aol.com) or go to [www.mndare.org](http://www.mndare.org)

####