



Police program is just for kids

Officer Brad Schmidt is a member of the School Resource Program sponsored by the Lincoln Police Dept. and the Lincoln Public Schools.

The program, started in 1971, consists of three parts. The first is education about what the law is;

including why there are laws and what happens if one is caught committing a crime, said Schmidt.

Classroom activities, films and criminal justice mini-courses help to achieve this objective of the program, he said.

Safety on bicycles and in streets is the second part of the program. The third part is human relations, often accomplished by officers eating in school cafeterias during the school year and joining children's games in the parks in the summer months, he said.

An informal program predominates during the summer. The officers may give talks upon request, but the majority of their time is spent doing what the students are doing. Those activities have ranged from reading to tie-dyeing shirts.

Officers spend their summer afternoons cruising their regular beats, stopping to talk to children at the parks, swimming pools and on the streets.

Two weeks are also spent at the police camps, where officers see many of the students they know from the schools.

And there are always questions, on all subjects, from the children, said Schmidt.

"You have to be truthful with them. You have to answer their questions truthfully whether it is what happens if they are caught shop-lifting or if policemen drink and drive."



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