

Johnny Burks - Cullman High School
Assignment - Cullman City / Cullman Police Department
Supervisor - Lt. Craig Montgomery
July 7th - July 11th

As a work experience I requested to work with the Cullman Police Department and to my good fortune the request was granted. I visited with my contact professional, Lt. Craig Montgomery, a few days before the start of my journey. Lt. Montgomery was enthused, extremely cordial, and genuinely shared my excitement. From the first day to the last, I can say the experience was an adrenaline fueled, thought provoking, mind boggling blast.

Day 1 - patrol. I spent the day with Patrol Officer Scott Sanders where our dispatches included a suspected overdose death, a suicide by hanging, a two car wreck on Hwy 31 South, as well as various traffic related stops. Thoughts: the two deaths were quite emotional. Victim 1 was discovered by her children who were at the scene and in an understandable state of grief. Victim 2 lived alone and had been dead between 24 and 36 hours.

Day 2 - narcotics enforcement. I spent the day with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team. CNET is a joint effort between the Cullman City and County law enforcement teams. During the course of the day, we severed a variety of arrest warrants that took us south to Hanceville, west to Valley Grove, and north to Berlin. All of the arrest stemmed from the sale and distribution of Methamphetamine. Thoughts: I was shocked at the conditions in which these type of drug addicts lived. Filthy would not be even close to describing the living conditions. Trash, dirt, slime, waste, unless one was their, words can't describe what I saw.

Day 3 - evidence and crime scene procedures. I spent the day with the Cullman Police Department Investigative Division. I was given access to the Evidence Lock-Up Room and shown how police evidence is logged and maintained. I was also provided with an experience related to an actual crime scene investigation and the procedures used by the investigation team. Thoughts: I was surprised to learn how detailed and thorough a crime scene investigation is conducted, and also the depth to which the investigation goes. It's much like the old saying, "leave no stone unturned."

Day 4 - patrol. This was my second time to drive along with patrol officers. We encountered several traffic violations, along with a call for a drug overdose, and an arrest for Public Intoxication. Thoughts: officers are more than willing to listen to explanations for traffic violations, and do take in to consideration the explanations that are provided. Word for the wise, being cooperative with the officers will go a long way toward a warning versus a ticket.

Day 5 - narcotics enforcement. My final day with the department consisted of a final 'q and a' with the investigators, and a Tactical Team enforcement of a search warrant. Thoughts: we drove to Berlin and met several Cullman Sheriff's officers for the implementation of a search warrant. The officers entered a residence known to be the location for the sell and distribution of methamphetamine. Drugs were found, and two individuals were arrested.

Overall, I must say I would never have been able to bring the experiences listed above to my classroom without the assistance of both the City of Cullman and Cullman Area Workforce Solutions. The program is wonderful and let there be no doubt, I would recommend this opportunity to any educator who is considering participation. It is my hope the program continues to provide this opportunity and that more a more educators will participate.

Johnny Burks