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Norfolk County Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy Expands to Franklin

Dedham – The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office is bringing its Youth Leadership Academy to Franklin this summer as part of a pilot to expand the popular program throughout Norfolk County. From August 16th – 20th, Norfolk County youth between the ages of 10 and 14 can participate in a week of adventure activities designed to build self-confidence, leadership, communication and goal-setting. The Sheriff's Office currently runs a Youth Leadership Academy in Braintree.

"Giving children the opportunity to build self-confidence and challenge themselves in a safe environment is important in helping them develop the skills to succeed in adulthood," said Norfolk County Sheriff Patrick McDermott. "Our Youth Academy in Braintree has been proof of that, and I am glad to be able to extend this opportunity to families across Norfolk County with this pilot program in Franklin."

The home base for the Franklin Youth Leadership Academy will be Dean College, which will provide lunch for all participants. Students will participate in a variety of icebreakers, games, activities, and demonstrations. The Academy also includes a full-day field trip to Tree Top Adventures in Canton, where students will have the opportunity to challenge themselves on a high-ropes obstacle course. The Youth Leadership Academy operates on a "Challenge by Choice" model, in which participants set their own self-challenging goals.

Because of COVID-19 social distancing requirements, the number of available spots at the Franklin and Braintree Youth Leadership Academies is limited. COVID-19 mitigation protocols are in place, including social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitation of all surfaces.

Fifty spots are available for interested youth in this pilot program and are expected to fill quickly. Registration for the Franklin Youth Leadership Academy opens April 26th. To learn more, contact Paula Glynn at 781-751-3501 or Youth@NorfolkSheriffMA.org or visit www.NorfolkSheriff.com/Youth.

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