

POLICE OFFICER CAROLINE MAHER

Suffolk County Police Department

Yaphank, NY

My name is Officer Caroline Maher and I have recently started my 25th year as Police Officer for the Suffolk County Police Department located in Yaphank NY where we have approximately 2,400 sworn officers serving a population of approximately 1.5 million. We were formed in 1960 and are the 11th largest department in the United States, we have 7 precincts that cover approximately 911 square miles and are located in a suburban area approximately 40 miles from NYC. Prior to becoming a police officer, I have trained in martial arts for over 34 years and have personally instructed self-defense courses and taught regularly scheduled classes during those years. I possess a Master's Degree and I have 23 years of active street patrol and I have been a NYDCJS certified general topics instructor (since 2014), a School Resource Officer (since 2012) and a Field Training Officer (since 2004). I am a DCJS graduate of the ASIST Suicide Intervention Program and Crisis Intervention Team certified and was formerly the 7th precinct advisor for Post 700 SCPD Police Explorers for over 7 years where I regularly instructed youths from 14-20 years of age who were interested in law enforcement as a future career. I assisted with our summer Youth Academy in 2018, I was the organizer and co-instructor for the 1st SCPD 7th Precinct Women's Self Defense Seminar in May 2017 and assisted our SCPD 6th Precinct COPE unit with 2 Women's Self Defense Seminars in 2018 and 2019. I personally organized and instructed the SCPD's 1st Senior Self Defense awareness presentation in January 29, 2018. I created and conducted 2 Stranger Danger and bullying seminars for youths 8-15 years of age in 2019. I am currently assigned to the SCPD Police Academy as an In-Service General Topics Instructor, where I have been for almost 4 years and I am the department's summer Youth Academy Coordinator. As the summer Youth Academy Coordinator, I have personally organized (or assisted with) approximately 14 youth academies, created power-point presentations and have instructed or been present for academy classes to over 500 youths since 2019.