



100th Recruit Class

On October 5, 1931, the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 1st Recruit Class reported for training. These first troopers were told to act as "gentlemen who enforce the law." This philosophy remains the basic philosophy of the Highway Patrol.

Missouri State Highway Patrol

Senate Bill 36 created the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and became effective on September 14, 1931. Our country was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1931, and jobs were hard to find. Thus, the Patrol received approximately 5,000 applications for the 1st Recruit Class. The 55 men chosen to be the first Missouri troopers reported to the St. Louis Police Academy on October 5, 1931, for six weeks of intensive training.

During the early years of the Patrol, recruit classes trained in several places—Camp Clark in Nevada, MO, Camp Hawthorne in Kaiser, MO, the State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, MO, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and what was previously known as the Trachoma Hospital in Rolla, MO, for instance. In 1970, the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy located on the grounds of General Headquarters in Jefferson City, MO, opened its doors. Recruits have trained there since.

The original recruit class trained for six weeks. They covered topics such as law, marksmanship,

military drill, traffic crash investigation, physical training, report writing, etc. Over the years, recruit training has evolved to reflect changes in society. The Patrol added first aid training in 1936. In 1964, recruits began earning college credit for their training. The first African-American recruit attended the Academy in 1965 as a member of the 29th Recruit Class. The 43rd Recruit Class boasted the first female recruits (two), who attended training in 1975.

As society changed and technological advancements occurred, the Patrol adjusted recruit training to reflect this. Some of these specialized recruit training courses include Breathalyzer testing, communications, criminal investigation, commercial vehicle enforcement, media relations, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations, drug interdiction, and marine law enforcement. Recruits now train for 25 weeks before being commissioned as a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper. In January 2015, the Patrol will welcome its 100th Recruit Class.

