FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2017

Contact: Aaron Snell, Community Information Officer, Media Line: 425-257-7444

**Everett Police engage with area students at Junior Police Academy**

EVERETT – The Everett Police Department continues their annual Junior Police Academy to engage 31 area students to become leaders during a weeklong event.

The Everett Police Department Youth Services Unit, comprised of six School Resource Officers and their Sergeant, are hosting the 14th Cadet Class this week at Eisenhower Middle School. 31 area middle and high school students were invited to attend a weeklong course where cadets participate in classes and scenarios that expose them to the role of law enforcement in the community.

“Bridging the gap between students and law enforcement develops stronger communities,” Everett Police Youth Services Sergeant Tim Reeves said. “Most young people do not understand what police officers do or why we do it. Taking the mystery out of law enforcement transforms attitudes toward police. Most of these students will not be officers but, we strive to empower them to be leaders and believe in themselves while experiencing something few others can say they have.”

Targeting middle school and high school students, the program is a police academy for young people. Each day brings education, new experiences, and information in both classroom and interactive settings. Cadets drill, practice vehicle stops and ticket writing, try on SWAT & bomb gear, conduct building searches, interview suspects after investigating a crime scene, and will get a close-up look at the Snohomish County’s Search & Rescue helicopter.

A graduation ceremony will be held at the conclusion of the academy on Friday, July 14th at 1:00 p.m. The ceremony is open to the public at Eisenhower Middle School (10200 25th Ave SE, Everett, WA 98208).

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